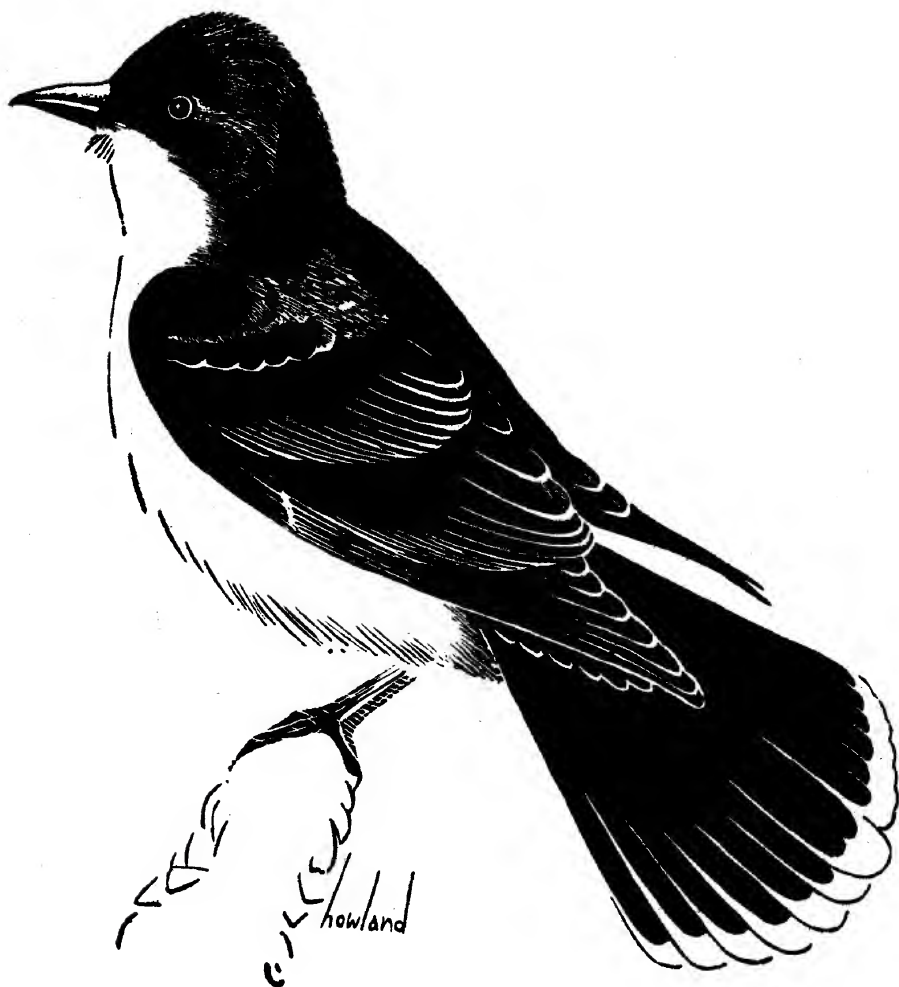


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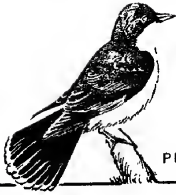
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## FIELD IDENTIFICATION OF THE RUFF AND REEVE (*PHILOMACHUS PUGNAX*) IN NORTH AMERICA

Julia M. Wentworth and Douglas P. Kibbe

Many shorebirds, particularly the smaller "peeps", are notoriously difficult to identify in the field, and they have, consequently, received considerable attention in most field guides. Most of the medium-sized species, however, have been given relatively cursory treatment, apparently on the assumption that field marks on these species are relatively distinct, and that situations of confusion are rarely encountered in the field. Several European species of shorebirds have received particularly scanty coverage.

One of these species, the Ruff (*Philomachus Pugnax*), has been reported with increasing frequency in eastern North America in recent years. In 1972 there were at least 54 records of the Ruff from the eastern states and Canadian provinces, including 4 records from New York State. Whether or not this increasing number of observations merely reflects an increase in the number of observers in the field or supports the hypothesis that a recently established breeding population exists in North America is unknown and irrelevant for the present discussion. However, difficulties with identification of the Ruff in the field complicate the interpretation of its relative frequency of occurrence in North America.

The problem of identification of the Ruff is much more complex than that associated with most of our native shorebirds. This complexity is due to the marked seasonal and sexual dimorphism of the Ruff, compounded by the extremely wide range of individual variation within the species. The following descriptions will consider characteristics of each sex separately as well as the variability that can be expected. The discussion will then consider some potential sources of confusion between the Ruff and other eastern North American shorebirds.

### *Descriptions*

#### Adult Male (Ruff) in Breeding Season:

The adult male ranges in size from 11½ to 12 inches in length. The bill measures from 34 to 38 mm in length and is straight or just perceptibly decurved. Bill color is thought to change with age from lead-grey to red. The leg color varies from shades of orange, yellow or red to greenish, brownish or grey. Leg color is also thought to change with increasing age from greenish-grey to red or orange.

Male nuptial plumage is worn from early to mid-April through mid-to-late June. Complete male nuptial plumage consists of a large erectile pectoral ruff or collar of feathers arising from the chin, throat, cheeks,

and neck; two erectile head tufts arising from the crown; small wattles of bare flesh on the front of the head between the bill and the eyes; and long ornamental dorsal feathers on the back and rump. The male exhibits extreme color polymorphism (individual variation) in breeding plumage. No two males are exactly identical in color combination and pattern. Colors range from white, yellow, red, or brown to black. The ruff and head tufts may be solid colors or may contain one or two secondary colors. The colors of an individual's ruff and tufts may be alike or different. Patterns in the ruff and head tufts are formed by secondary colors in various patterns: transverse striping spots or blotches; or a bib just below the chin formed by color differences between the top and bottom feathers of the ruff. Different combinations of transverse striping, spots, and bib may occur. Wattle colors also vary from grey to red or yellow.

#### Adult Female (Reeve) in Breeding Season:

The female is smaller than the Male, measuring from 8½ to 10 inches in length. The bill is also smaller, measuring 29 to 33mm in length, but the bill color is similar to that of the male. The female's legs are similar to the male's.

The female's nuptial plumage is less conspicuous than the male's, being only slightly different from its winter plumage. Nuptial plumage is distinguished from winter plumage by the feathers of the head, upper body, and anterior parts exhibiting a brighter, bolder, and more sharply defined pattern. The feathering becomes quite dark, almost blackish, with very light borders. Female nuptial plumage also shows individual variation, although to a far less extent than that of the male. The variation is most apparent in the spotting pattern of the head, throat, throat, and breast as well as in the darkness of color in these regions. Some females are occasionally seen with conspicuous white eye-rings or bill-rings (around the base of the bill), and more rarely a female is found with a white head or neck. The ventral area from the abdomen to the tail is white.

#### Winter Plumage of Both Sexes:

The male and female winter plumages are essentially similar. The difference in size between the sexes is the main distinguishing characteristic in winter, the male being distinctly larger than the female. The male loses the nuptial ruff and head tufts. The feathers of the upper parts are various browns, ranging from dark brown to brownish-grey. These feathers have prominent pale margins, creating a scalloped effect. The breast and belly are light brownish, fading to white on the chin and from the abdomen to the tail.

### Immature Plumage of Both Sexes:

The immatures are typically smaller than adults of either sex. The immature plumage is browner than the greyish or brownish-grey winter plumage of the adults, and the feathers have buffy edgings. The blackish-brown feathers and their buffy borders create a neat bold pattern on the back. The entire breast and sides are a warm pinkish buff color. A young male can be recognized during the breeding season by the presence of a very short, under-developed nuptial ruff and head tufts, both appearing relatively late in the season.

### Birds in Flight:

The identification of birds in flight relies on a combination of several characteristics. Males in breeding plumage exhibit a thick-necked appearance due to the presence of the ruff feathers which are sleeked down on the neck in flight. Both male and females have a narrow white wing-stripe which is visible in flight. During all seasons both sexes have a distinctive tail pattern consisting of two oval white patches on either side of a dark area down the center of the tail. This tail pattern can be seen at close range during flight. Subjective impressions may also be helpful in the identification of this species. Both males and females exhibit a very headlong flight pattern, which, while also true of other waders, is more "reckless" in this species. A small flock twists, turns and zig-zags together in a highly synchronized manner, maintaining tight flock cohesion. This unified flock behavior may be expected of wintering birds, but it is also characteristic of birds during the breeding season, especially non-breeders.

### Habitat and Feeding Behavior:

During the breeding season (April through August), the habitat of the Ruff is primarily wet meadows, old fields with shallow standing water and grassy marshes. On migration and during the non-breeding season, the habitat is similar to that frequented in spring and summer, but it is extended to include the muddy borders of lakes and rivers, and, more rarely, muddy seashores as well.

Ruffs may be seen feeding in wet meadows, employing three different methods: 1) They may bore into the wet ground, searching for worms and soil invertebrates. 2) They may walk along pecking the ground surface, feeding on walking insects and seeds. 3) They may walk through the grass snapping insects out of the air or from blades of grass. Ruffs also feed in shallow water, where they probe the mud on the bottom as they stand or walk along. If the water of a flooded field becomes too deep, they frequently swim along until they can walk on the bottom again. Since their legs are rather short (shorter



than the legs of either the Greater or Lesser Yellowlegs), Ruffs do not, as a rule, feed in very deep water.

When feeding, Ruffs move along with the body oriented horizontally, and when alarmed adopt an upright posture. Except during male display, Ruffs normally adopt a semi-upright stance when stationary.

### *Species Comparisons:*

Field identification of the Ruff is complicated by the seasonal and sexual dimorphism of this species which increases the chances of misidentification. The Ruff may be easily confused with a wide variety of native North American shorebirds. The following descriptions and comparisons of distinguishing characteristics between the Ruff and a number of potential "look-alikes" may be of benefit to the field observer.

#### 1. Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

Because of their similar habitat preferences, Ruffs are most apt to be found in association with Pectoral Sandpipers. Thus the Pectoral Sandpiper, by virtue of its size, appearance and habitat preference for moist grassy areas presents the greatest potential source of confusion. The Pectoral Sandpiper's brown scaly back and breast, greenish legs, short bill which frequently exhibits a variable amount of yellow at the base, and dark rump line bordered by a white patch on either side, all suggest a juvenile or winter plumaged Ruff. Pectoral Sandpipers also exhibit considerable size variation, and they frequently adopt an erect stance which causes them to resemble the Ruff morphologically as well as behaviorally. However, the Pectoral Sandpiper's scaly back pattern tends to be arranged in buffy stripes, and the white rump patches are less extensive than those of the Ruff. Furthermore, the Pectoral Sandpiper lacks a white wing stripe and has an abrupt border to the breast pattern. In contrast, the Ruff's breast is indistinctly marked during the winter, and during the breeding season it has much more extensive dark patterning on the sides and upper abdomen. Another good field characteristic to use in discriminating between Ruffs and Pectoral Sandpipers in flocks of feeding shorebirds is the light eye-line of the Pectoral Sandpiper which is absent in the Ruff. However, this eye-line might occasionally be confused with the white areas which sometimes occur around the eyes and base of the bill of the Ruff, especially of females.

#### 2. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca* and *T. flavipes*)

Both of these species occur regularly with the Ruff, but they can both be readily identified by their longer, slimmer bills, their speckled appearance, and, in flight, their entirely white rumps and lack of a white wing stripe. The Ruff has much darker legs than the bright yellow legs of both the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

### 3. Stilt Sandpiper (*Micropalama himantopus*)

Although this species, due to its adaptation for probing in deeper water for food, is separated by habitat preference from the Ruff, the extensive barring on the underparts shown by breeding Stilt Sandpipers may be a potential source of misidentification. In breeding plumage the rusty cheek, more extensive barring in the lower abdomen, and the light eye-line of the Stilt Sandpiper should be apparent. In all plumages of the Stilt Sandpiper, the absence of a light wing stripe and the entirely white rump will clearly separate it from the Ruff.

### 4. Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

This species is separated by habitat from the Ruff, normally preferring drier grass areas to the wet habitat occupied by the Ruff. Although the size, head and bill shapes, and leg and plumage colorations resemble those of immature or non-breeding Ruffs, the absence of both a white wing stripe and white oval rump patches should readily identify the Upland Sandpiper if it is not already distinguishable by habitat and behavior.

### 5. Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*)

Although considerably smaller (6") than the Ruff (8"-10"), the Baird's Sandpiper prefers habitat similar to that of the Ruff, creating a situation where it might potentially be confused with an immature Ruff. The Baird's Sandpiper's buffy breast, light eye-line, and dark bill and legs may be used to distinguish it from the Ruff if the size difference alone is not conclusive.

### 6. Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*)

This species is probably as uncommon as the Ruff in eastern North America. The profile, eye-ring, light-colored legs, and buffy plumage coloration of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper all resemble that of a juvenile Ruff. However, the Buff-breasted Sandpiper is almost as small (6½") as the Baird's Sandpiper, and, like the Upland Sandpiper, it prefers dry grasslands over the wet habitats of the Ruff. The absence of a white wing stripe and the buffy abdomen and vent of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper should also help distinguish it from the Ruff.

### 7. Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)

The Solitary Sandpiper's preference for muddy shores, its dark wings and rump, and its habit of nodding like a Spotted Sandpiper should readily identify this species, although its size and eye-ring may initially suggest a Ruff.



### Conclusion:

The authors hope that the preceeding descriptions and species comparisons will facilitate identification of the Ruff in mixed flocks of medium-sized shorebirds. The following references may be of use to individuals interested in further accounts of the Ruff, its habits, identification, and occurrence in North America and New York State.

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## THE EVENING GROSBEAK IN NEW YORK STATE

JOHN B. BELKNAP

A century ago the Evening Grosbeak was virtually unknown in New York and adjacent states, as well as in eastern Canada. The early reports on this species came from the region of the western Great Lakes, and seemed to fit the pattern of a number of "winter finches" — irregular and unpredictable. During the latter part of the nineteenth century reports increased of Evening Grosbeaks in winter and spring in Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and the Province of Ontario.

At this time very little was known as to the summer home of this species. The first A.O.U. Checklist (1886) gives the distribution as "Western North America east of Lake Superior, and casually to Ohio and Ontario; from the fur countries south into Mexico". Presumably this included all three subspecies as they are recognized today. Somewhat later Butler (1892) gives the range in the following terms "It spends the summer in the north-western United States and western British America, from just east of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific. From there it migrates very irregularly in autumn to the eastward, casually reaching over a greater or less part of the eastern United States, north of a line drawn from the mouth of the Ohio east to the Atlantic."

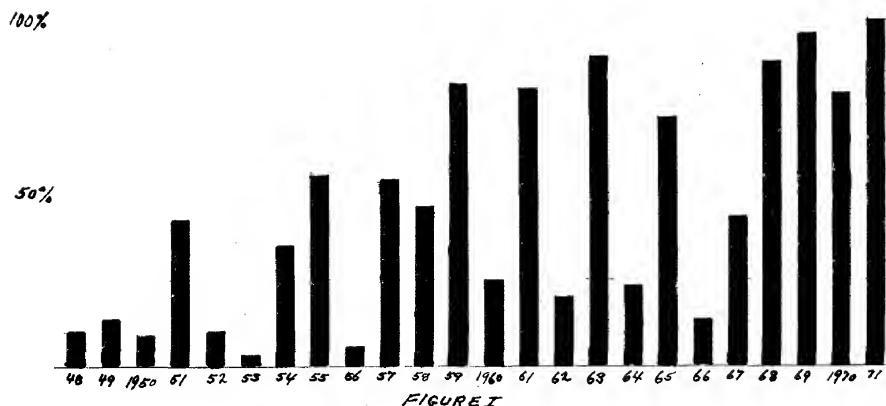
This was written following the "great invasion" of the winter of 1889-90 which brought Evening Grosbeaks to much of the northeast, including many parts of New York State. Prior to this there are a few records for our state, but the "great invasion" resulted in numerous observations, Eaton (1914) recording at least twenty.

In considering the period since 1890 it is well to bear in mind that there has been a continued increase in observers and recorded observations as well as the continued increase in Evening Grosbeaks in the northeast. Several early writers mention the Box Elder or Manitoba Maple (*Acer negundo*) as one factor in the eastward spread of the species, seeds of this tree being a favorite food. In more recent years the very extensive availability of sunflower seeds at feeding trays has been an influence. In any event the Evening Grosbeak is now a common if somewhat irregular winter and spring visitor to many parts of New York State.

The published reports of Christmas Counts (National Audubon Society) in New York State have been utilized to give some idea of winter distribution since 1948. In interpreting these data it should be realized that they are based on birds observed in a short period in early winter. Figure 1 shows the percentage of counts in the state reporting one or more Evening Grosbeaks. The number of counts varied from 29 to 50, averaging about 42. As would be expected, there was a

wide variation in total numbers, from a low of two in 1956 to a high, of 12,123 in 1971.

*PERCENT OF COUNTS IN N.Y. STATE  
WITH ONE OR MORE EVENING GROSBEAKS*



Less is known of the eastward extension of the breeding range of this species than its winter distribution. Definite breeding data are limited but evidence points to a range extending east to Cape Breton Island. This is a rather narrow belt, mainly in southern Canada, stretching eastward from Lake Superior. It is believed the eastward winter movement preceded the extension of the breeding range, and as more and more birds spent the winter in the northeast they moved north rather than northwest to nest. Due to the scarcity of actual nest records it is necessary to rely mainly on summer occurrences in delineating the breeding range. It includes parts of the Adirondacks which lie in the Coniferuos-Deciduous Forest Ecotone.

Initial summer records for the Adirondacks were in the 1940's. There is a July 1942 observation in Essex County, followed by a late June record near the Wanakena Ranger School in southeastern St. Lawrence County. More positive evidence came from the village of Saranac Lake with adult Evening Grosbeaks bringing young to feeding stations in the late 1940's.

This species, adaptable and biologically successful, has expanded its range significantly since the mid nineteenth century. It appears that birds first moved south in winter from the Lake Superior region until blocked by the mid-west prairies. In search of food they moved irregularly eastward, in ever increasing numbers toward the end of the nineteenth century. The breeding range was extended eastward as birds migrated north rather than northwest to their original home. During the past twenty-five years both the winter and summer range has extended to the Atlantic coast, with a considerable population now indigenous to the northeast, both in Canada and the United States.

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Corrections or omissions should be called to the attention of the Bibliography Committee; Sally Hoyt Spofford, John B. Belknap, Allen H. Benton, and Kenneth C. Parkes.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE 26TH ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS, INC. FORSTMANN CONFERENCE CENTER, OLIVEREA, N.Y. MAY 18-20, 1973

The 26th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was held at the Forstmann Conference Center, Frost Valley YMCA, Olivera, N.Y. with the Sullivan County Audubon Society as hosts. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. on May 18, 1973 by the president, Mr. Kenneth D. Niven. A quorum was declared with delegates from 15 clubs answering the roll call. Delegates from 3 additional clubs arrived later.

The delegates unanimously approved a vote to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 1972 Council Meeting and accept them as published in the January 1973 issue of the *Kingbird*.

The treasurer, Mr. Stephen B. Dempsey presented his report as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF 12/31/72  
AND FOR THE THEN ENDED YEAR

Cash on Hand 12/31/71	
Checking Account .....	\$1,944.86
Savings Account .....	7,912.68
Net Loss in 1972 .....	(702.52)
Adjustment* .....	21.17
	<hr/>
	\$9,176.19
 Cash on Hand 12/31/72	
Checking Account .....	\$ 879.23
Savings Account .....	8,296.96
	<hr/>
	\$9,176.19

*Income, 1972*

Dues, Individual	
Annual - 373 .....	\$1,866.00
Sustaining - 17 .....	127.50
Supporting - 38 .....	380.00
Life - 6 .....	225.00
Student - 8 .....	24.00
	<hr/>
	3,622.50
 Dues, Club - 39 .....	1,062.05
Subscriptions & Sale of Kingbird .....	262.75
Miscellaneous .....	18.50
Annual Meeting .....	34.00
Interest on Savings Accounts (Accrued) .....	384.28
	<hr/>
	\$4,384.08

*Expenses 1972*

Kingbird .....	\$4,454.86
Membership .....	231.86
Annual Meeting .....	69.95
Hawk Program .....	15.00
Dues .....	25.00
Miscellaneous .....	25.10
New York Birders .....	239.78
Refunds (Over payment of dues, etc.) .....	24.25
Bank Charges .....	.80
	<hr/>
	\$5,086.60
Net Loss .....	<hr/>
	(\$702.52)

\* Represents checks drawn in 1972 but not cleared until 1973 totalling \$36.17 less checks cleared in 1972 that had been drawn in 1971 totalling \$15.00.

# HAWK NESTING FUND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1972

Balance on Hand 1/1/72 .....	\$949.14
Interest earned - Year 1972 .....	43.46
Adjustment .....	(.33)
Balance on Hand 12/31/72 .....	\$992.27

NOTE: The regular account is due \$15.00 for disbursements made in 1971 and \$15.00 for disbursements made in 1972.

The treasurer's reports were accepted as presented.

Mr. William B. Reeves presented the report of the auditing committee that he and Mr. Ralph Gioffi had examined the accounts and found them in good order. This report was also accepted as presented.

Mrs. Dorothy W. McIlroy, Chairman of the Finance Committee presented the budget for the coming year as follows:

* Income		Expenses	
Dues, Individual	\$2,390.00	** KINGBIRD	\$3700.00
Dues, Club	1,060.00	Conservation	30.00
Subscriptions	160.00	Membership	210.00
Miscellaneous (incl. back KINGBIRD sales)	50.00	Annual Meeting	110.00
Bank Interest	390.00	Affiliation Dues	25.00
	<u>\$4,050.00</u>	Miscellaneous (incl. bank charges)	30.00
		N.Y. Birders	250.00
			<u>\$4355.00</u>

DEFICIT \$305.00

\* Only spendable income listed; life membership payments excluded.

\*\* Decrease due to lower printing cost of Oct. '72 issue, paid for in '73.  
Otherwise would be higher.

The report of the Finance Committee was accepted as presented.

Mr. Niven pointed out the need to cut down on expenses.

After various suggestions on how to do this from the floor, Dr. Ed Reilly made a motion that meeting be held between the Treasurer and the Finance Committee to find ways to cut corners on expenses. This was seconded and passed unanimously.

Dr. Frederick C. Dittrich, Circulation Manager of the *Kingbird* presented the following report:

	1970	1971	1972	1973
Individual Members .....	467	463	461	443
Members Clubs .....	33	30	36	36
Subscriptions .....	12	26	28	32
Exchanges .....	13	15	16	16
Complimentary .....	7	17	15	17

Dr. Gordon Meade questioned the discrepancy between dues paid in 1972 for 39 clubs in the Treasurer's report and the figure 36 in Dr. Dittrich's report. It was announced that the Onondaga Audubon Society had dropped their membership. Dr. Dittrich and Mr. Dempsey were to meet to find the other differences.

Mr. Joseph Taylor made a motion to send complimentary copies of the *Kingbird*

to the Editors of the Wilson's Bulletin and the Auk. The motion was passed unanimously.

The report of the Circulation Manager was then accepted.

Miss Elizabeth Feldhusen presented a summary report for the years 1970-1973 as Corresponding Secretary:

"The term of office of Corresponding Secretary didn't seem to get underway until late '71 for she apparently remained undiscovered until then. Because of the spottiness of the job it was decided to write a four year composite report rather than one for each year.

The peak year for inquiries from other organizations was 1972 which spilled over into 1973. Inquiries included an offer of a free listing for the 1972 Directory of Consumer Protection and Environmental Agencies, Center for California Affairs and involved completing a detailed questionnaire. The free directory promised was never received unless it went to one of the other officers.

A Garwood R. Wolff & Co., New York City, requested samples of publications for a Guide to Information Sources on the Environment.

Representatives at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Tennessee requested information to help them in their efforts to write environment impact statements concerning present and future power plant facilities and specifically terrestrial and aquatic information on the south shore of Lake Ontario.

Woodward-Envicon, Inc., Environmental Consultants of Clifton, New Jersey, inquired about historical information dealing with aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in New York State.

An inquiry came from a Floridian who wished to contact bird clubs statewide as she planned to travel throughout New York State. A related inquiry was from a Queens College Student majoring in wildlife biology who wanted to join a local bird club.

Other correspondence concerned thanking Dr. Minnie B. Scotland, Cohoes, N.Y. and Mrs. Louise Van Acker, Lake Worth, Florida, for their back issues of the Kingbird.

The remainder of the correspondence was within the Federation family such as distributing notices for a presidents' special meeting, contacting other clubs in regards to the 1974 and 1975 annual meetings and replies and requests for Federation publications and other materials."

This report of the Corresponding Secretary was accepted.

Mr. Joseph Taylor, Editor, then presented his yearly report on the *Kingbird*. Mr. Taylor said his report was more optimistic this year and that the Assistant Editor, Mr. Douglas Kibbe, has been a great help. Regional reports have been more prompt and the Kingbirds will be published as promptly as possible, although at times they have to wait for the publishers. A Regional Reports Editor is needed to replace Dr. Fritz Scheider. The co-editors of Region 5 have also resigned.

Mr. Taylor's report was accepted by the delegates.

The report of the Waterfowl Committee was submitted by letter by Dr. David Peakall, and read into the minutes:

"The Waterfowl Count was undertaken for the entire state except the Adirondack Region. The count has been submitted to the Kingbird for publication. I would like to thank all persons, especially the Regional Leaders, who took part in the count. Comparison with the states aerial count showed that we came out well ahead except for the off-shore Brant count."

The annual report of the Bibliography Committee was received from Dr. Sally H. Spofford and accepted as read:

"The bibliography committee completed its compilation of references to Ornithology in New York State in 1971, and it will shortly be forwarded to the Editor



of the *Kingbird* for inclusion in the July, 1973 issue. We are beginning to compile the list for 1972 publications.

Again we plead with you to send to one of us reprints of articles in journals, monographs, or annotated checklists, we might overlook, or citations of such articles. We also want to have word of any we have over-looked in any previous publication of the list. Although we never hear anything from readers, (unless there is an omission or an error!) we do know that the list has been useful to students, researchers, and compilers of such material, as for the State Bird Book! Therefore we are willing and happy to continue getting together the material annually.

Hopefully, in the next few years, a list can be put out which will combine all these annual reports, thus up-dating the "Bibliography of New York State Ornithology" by Benton and Eaton, put out in 1952. Without these annual lists the job would be extremely difficult. To be complete, however, we need your help in regard to errors or omissions.

I wish to express again my appreciation to my committee, John Belknap, Allan Benton and Kenneth Parkes, for their fine help, and to all of you who have, in past years, brought to our attention articles and notes we might otherwise have overlooked."

Dr. Robert Wolk, in the absence of Mr. John Bull, reported on the progress of the State Bird Book. The manuscript is in the hands of the publisher and should be ready about a year from now. It will be a one volume, double column book with color plates, paintings, black & white photographs and color maps. It will be a big book and will probably sell for between \$15 and \$20.

It was suggested that there be an advance notice in the *Kingbird* about the State Bird Book. And Dr. Wolk's report was accepted by the council.

The area representatives presented their reports:

Area 2: Dr. Gordon Meade reported he had attended meetings of the clubs in his area and will contact the bird clubs in his area which are not members of the Federation. He pointed out the need for new membership applications and suggested that the area representatives be listed in the *Kingbird*. Mr. Niven announced that the representative for area 6 will be Mary Key.

Old Business - Under discussion of content of the *Kingbird*, a letter was read from Mr. Tom Davis who favors dropping the regional reports in the *Kingbird* because of coverage in *American Birds* and, instead, publish a yearly summary of the regional reports.

The consensus of the Council was that the regional reports should be continued and that they have definite value. It was pointed out that a major role of the Federation has been dissemination of bird reports. In the survey taken last year 90% liked the regional reports. Mr. Bull, in preparation for the State Bird Book, went through all the *Kingbird* regional records and they are an invaluable tool for environmental impact statements. They are also of value for use by beginners in the field.

It was announced that there is an index for the first ten years of the *Kingbird* available from Dr. Ed Reilly, but that there is no recent index.

After an announcement that a Conservation Meeting would be held at 7:30 P.M. the meeting was recessed until Saturday morning.

The meeting convened on Saturday morning with delegates from 2 additional clubs present.

Mr. Robert Arbib presented the report of the Publications Committee which was accepted by the council as follows: The Committee endorses the State Bird Book. They volunteer to index the second 10 years of the *Kingbird*. It is a problem to get articles and reports for the *Kingbird* which will continue as a quarterly. More individual members and subscriptions are needed. They would like to see the *Kingbird* grow and feel we should be able to have an individual membership of 1,000, with 10,000 active birders we should reach them with the *Kingbird*.

Dr. Gerhard Leubner had booklets entitled "Improve Your Environment" which were given to each club.

A greeting card was passed around and signed by all present to be sent to long time member and patron Mrs. Lillian Stoner. Mrs. Stoner now residing in Florida was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Richard Sloss read a note of regrets from Mrs. Albert Fudge. Mr. and Mrs. Fudge, longtime regulars at Federation meetings were unable to attend because of Mr. Fudge's ill health.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mr. Robert Arbib presented the proposed slate of officers for 1974. Dr. Ed Reilly moved the nominations be closed. It was seconded and passed without opposition. The secretary was instructed to cast one vote for the entire slate. Elected into office were:

PRESIDENT: Dr. Gordon M. Meade

VICE-PRESIDENT: Mr. Richard A. Sloss

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Mary Ann Sunderlin

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Alice Jones

TREASURER: Mr. Stephen B. Dempsey

The following auditing committee was unanimously elected into office: Mr. William Reeves and Mr. Ralph Cioffi.

The nominating committee for 1974 was also unanimously elected into office: Mr. Martin Borko, Chairman, Dr. Ed Reilly, Dr. Robert Wolk.

Mrs. Myrna Hemmerick, chairman of the Membership Committee reported that there were 43 new members and 1 new club.

The new club, the Goudy Wildlife of Newburgh, was duly admitted into membership. Official invitations to join the Federation were extended to 2 Long Island clubs, the North Fork Audubon Society and the South Shore Audubon Society.

Dr. Frederick Dittrich reported on the number of dropped members — in 1970-65, 1971 — 33, 1972 — 45, and 1973 — probably 40.

Mr. Ken Niven raised the question about clubs applying for membership during the year but having wait until the next annual meeting to become members. As this is the way our by-laws are set up, it was suggested and agreed to by the Council that the report of the Membership Committee be the first item on the agenda at future council meetings so that new clubs may be voted into membership and have voting delegates at the same meeting.

Mr. Niven was asked if there was an officer's meeting scheduled. He replied that there was no definite date set, that 2 had been held in the past and that it would be of value to continue them.

It was also discussed whether or not reminders should be sent to the clubs to send delegates to the annual meetings. It was suggested that the area representatives see that the clubs send delegates and that a reminder notice could be on the slate of officers sent to the membership prior to the annual meeting.

The president reminded the delegates that 2 copies of the officers of their clubs should be sent each year to the corresponding secretary of the Federation and in the even numbered years a membership list.

It was questioned as to what use was made of the membership lists and why they were required. It was pointed out that this is a requirement of the by-laws-sec. 5, article 2. Dr. Ed Reilly made a motion which was seconded and passed that the officers study this question and consider the pros and cons of changing the by-laws, and this requirement.

The question also arose why the Onondage and Great South Bay Audubon Societies had dropped their membership in the Federation. Some of the delegates felt the amount of dues was a factor. Others felt the real problem is that some clubs have no real involvement with the Federation or have a change of officers

who know very little about the Federation. It was pointed out that this is one of the primary duties of the area representatives.

Mr. Richard Sloss suggested that the Federation set up a program bureau. Federation sponsored field trips were also suggested as ways to increase contact with member clubs.

Mr. Maxwell Wheat pointed out that one of the tools to reach the clubs is the New York Birders. Through this newsletter the Federation could offer field trips, ideas for programs and other activity ideas. Most clubs are provincial and need a sense of state. The Federation is the only organization to represent clubs in N.Y. State to save birds.

Dr. Dittrich reported that the N.Y. Birders will soon print some history of the Federation and remind readers of some of the Federation's accomplishments.

Mr. Maxwell Wheat, Chairman, presented his report of the Publicity Committee. The new Federation officers will soon receive a form to be filled out. From this, publicity releases on the officers and Federation will be sent out to newspapers in their local areas. The Hawk Nesting Program will also receive publicity in the future.

Mr. Ken Niven reported on the John J. Elliot Committee. No award has been made the last several years. (The award, in memory of John J. Elliot of Long Island and President of the Federation at the time of his death, is given to the single most worthy article in the Kingbird each year.) Hopefully it could be revived in the future and would be a stimulus for articles. There is a fund of \$1,000 plus. Perhaps there could be some publicity about the award in the Kingbird.

Mr. Niven thanked Dr. Ed Reilly for having attended and represented the Federation at hearings of the N. Y. State legislature in Albany. Dr. Reilly then announced that the monthly publication of the N. Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation entitled "N. Y. State Environment" publishes a list of environmental legislation which includes bill number, sponsor and summary of the bill. He also said that clubs should refer to him any bills they feel the Federation should act on and he will represent the Federation at the legislative hearings in Albany.

The Conservation Committee report was presented by the Chairman, Mr. Maxwell Wheat and approved in its entirety:

"Only a few years ago birders were about the only citizens fully involved in conservation (now known as environment). Organizations like the Federation tried to do what they could on the various fronts like air pollution and water pollution.

The Federation should continue to be concerned with the total movement and allow its name to be used as a strength for needed moves. But there are many organizations, and most aspects are represented by some concerned group.

In this context, the Federation's main responsibility and greatest contribution lies in the protection of birds in N. Y. State. No other group is going to do it zealously except birders. Indeed, it is the birders who should perform in this sector.

This would involve working closely with the Legislature, for which we need someone on the scene in Albany. It would mean watching the state agencies. It would mean following through on the local level through member clubs. It would also involve supporting (actively where possible) protection of habitats necessary for birds such as wetlands, rivers, woods, meadows, etc.

And we would support through use of our name and actively when possible needed legislation in Congress and, indeed, help for birds (particularly endangered species) throughout the world.

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS (TO BE SENT TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES) WERE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY:**

Be it resolved that the Federation of New York State Birds Clubs, Inc., an affiliation of 36 clubs statewide, comprising several thousand individual members who are residents of N. Y. State,

1. SUPPORTS the designation of the Connetquot River in Suffolk County on Long Island as a N. Y. State Scenic River under the N. Y. State Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers System to effectively preserve a wilderness area on Long Island that is unique not only for its pristine water but for the breeding of at least 73 species of birds including the Canada Warbler, Wood Duck, Brown Creeper (perhaps the only nesting area on Long Island), and Gadwall (the easternmost site as far as known).

The Federation also stands ready to support similar action for the Carmans and Nissequogue Rivers on Long Island and other rivers throughout N. Y. State where it is demonstrated that these afford valuable habitat for birds.

2. OPPOSES the transfer of a portion of Hempstead Lake State Park in Nassau County on Long Island to the Village of Rockville Centre for use as a swimming and recreational area since this area, one of the few remaining in the vicinity with trees, understory and water, is important for resting and feeding migratory warblers and other birds, being, in fact, a popular place for birders from throughout the metropolitan area and, furthermore, it is an area with potential educational value for the increased numbers of people becoming interested in nature. The Federation also questions the legality of a village or town acquiring land owned by the accessible to the people of N. Y. State.

3. SUPPORTS the efforts of local clubs and other organizations in the Albany area for the preservation of parts of the so-called Albany sand plains or pine plains.

4. SUPPORTS the amending of the environmental conservation law to require an applicant for a hunting license to successfully complete an examination which shall determine his ability to identify protected birds.

5. OPPOSES the construction of any bridge across the western Long Island Sound from Long Island to Westchester (Oyster Bay - Rye) as an environmental disaster and as being of great destructive potential to the quality of life in Westchester and Nassau Counties and to all Long Island.

6. OPPOSES the conversion of Stewart Field into the 4th major jetport as it is economically seriously questionable, transportationwise unnecessary, and ecologically disastrous. The Federation recognizes the need for a constructive alternative.

7. SUPPORTS the master plan for the Adirondacks and further supports similar planning for the entire State as it provides a rational reasonable plan for living in harmony with our environment.

8. OPPOSES off-shore oil drilling off New York shores as a possible disaster to birds pending further study.

9. SUPPORTS a permanent ban on the importation of Monk Parakeets into the United States."

NEW BUSINESS: The following resolutions committee was appointed: James S. Van Scoy, Mildred Comer, Arthur Davidson, Elizabeth A. Feldhusen, Dr. Frederick C. Dittrich. ANNOUNCEMENTS: The 1974 Council Meeting will be held in Jamestown, N. Y., no date has been set.

Dr. Gordon Meade asked for a show of hands as to a preference for a spring or fall meeting. The consensus was for a fall meeting.

Mr. Stanley Quickmire announced that the National Audubon Society will be holding a northeastern states conference somewhere around May 18, 1974 and wishes to avoid a conflict with the Federation.

## THE PAPER SESSION

1. Re-establishment of the Wild Turkey in the Catskills ..... Winfred N. Ford
2. Singing Behavior of the Eastern Bluebird ..... Mark A. Waruch
3. Birds of a Freshwater Tidal Marsh ..... Edik Kiviat
4. Hawks and Owls of the Catskills ..... William H. Robinson
5. Banding Shorebirds on Long Island ..... LeRoy Wilcox
6. The Bird Poetry of Richard Eberhardt ..... Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr.

The following resolution was presented at the Annual Banquet:

We, the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. do express our thanks to the Sullivan County Audubon Society for serving as host club in arranging the 26th meeting of the Federation in the unique setting of the Frost Valley Conference Center.

The Host Club is to be especially commended for its fine coordination of the program and activities in a setting conducive to a fine camaraderie.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Myrna Hemmerick

Mrs. Dayton Stoner, a Charter and Life Member of the Federation as well as its first Patron, has moved from Albany and is now living at Sunny Shores Villa, 125 56th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33705. Her many friends who missed her at the Annual Meeting will want to write here there.



## FIELD NOTES

**American Avocets in Buffalo Harbor.** On the mud flats of Times Beach near the Coast Guard station I discovered five Avocets at noon, August 22, 1972. This species is casual and very rare in Western New York waters. The only other report in the area was a bird reported by Brownstein and Schaffner at Fort Erie, Ontario on August 8, 1964 four miles northwest of Buffalo Harbor. (Beardsley & Mitchell, Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region, 1965)

Photos were taken through a spotting scope at ranges of forty to fifty yards. The birds were seen by other observers for the remainder of the day.



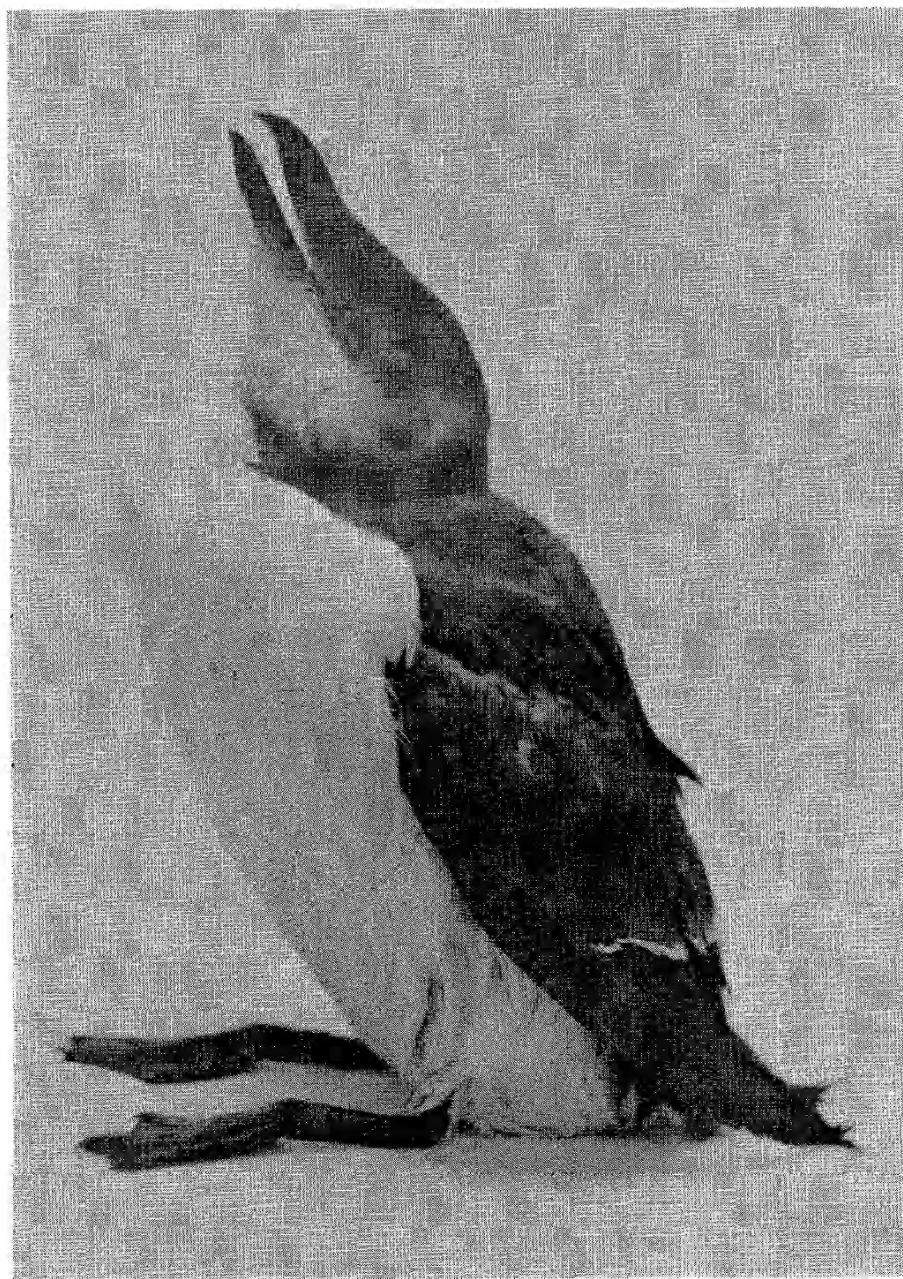
Avocets occur casually in the Northeastern states, so occasional reports of their presence in New York can be expected.

Paul M. Benham, 112 Linden Avenue, Kenmore, New York 14217

**A Razorbill near Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge.** On 5 November 1972, an immature Razorbill (*Alca torda*) was found by Mr. Chuck Gallo near the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge, Seneca County, New York. The bird was swimming in a small drainage ditch on the Jackson muckland less than one mile south of the New York State Thruway and less than one mile east of the Refuge. When it was approached, the bird attempted to dive in the few inches of water in the ditch.

The bird was caught by hand and taken to Mr. Reynolds Martz, who lives north of the Refuge, and placed on a small pond used by captive waterfowl. The bird reportedly dived repeatedly in this pond but whether the bird obtained food was not determined. On 9 November, the weakened bird was removed from the pond by Refuge personnel and taken to Refuge headquarters where photographs were taken. Although attempts were made to force-feed the Razorbill with minnows, it was dead the next morning. When skinned, the alcid was found to be in a very emaciated condition; there was no evidence of gunshot wounds. The mounted specimen will remain on display in the headquarters of the Refuge.





Taken by V. A. Dewey at Montezuma N.W.R., 9 November 1972.

This represents the first confirmed Razorbill record for New York State at an inland locality (Bull, in press). Although Eaton (1910) lists two Razor-billed Auks (Razorbills) taken on Saratoga Lake, New York, on 26 November 1893, details and specimens are not available for his record.

In Pennsylvania, Wood (1967) mentions a Razorbill collected in Luzerne County, in northeastern Pennsylvania, before 1902. The Razorbill recording attributed to Pennsylvania on "A Field Guide to Bird Songs", a record in the Peterson Field Guide Series, is from an oiled bird found and captured at Barnegat Light near Beach Haven, New Jersey, and then transported to Pennsylvania where a tape was prepared three hours later.

Bent (1919) states that there are no Razorbill records for the Great Lakes west of Lake Ontario and discredits records from Michigan. Four accounts from the 1800's of Razorbills found near the Canadian shore of Lake Ontario have been published. The earliest record mentions a Razorbill taken near the western end of Lake Ontario in November of 1871 (Macoun & Macoun, 1909). Between 1889 and 1893 there are three published reports: Toronto Bay, one bird taken 10 December 1889 (Thompson, 1890); St. Lambert in the vicinity of Montreal, four birds observed with one immature taken 10 November 1893 (Wintle, 1895); and Hamilton Bay, one male taken 9 December 1893 (Maughan, 1898). The observation that two of the Lake Ontario records and the Saratoga Lake record are from the same year, 1893, is interesting. Macoun and Macoun (1909) also state that there was a large migration of Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) in 1893 on Lake Ontario. An account was recently published in *American Birds* (1972) of another Razorbill record from Lake Ontario. The bird was seen at Hamilton, Ontario, 12-31 March 1972. Again, there are two reports in one year for a bird species that rarely occurs inland.

The Razorbill breeds as far south as southern New Brunswick, Canada, and winters south to Long Island, New York; rarely to New Jersey, and is casual farther south along the coast. The bird's appearance in central New York was not preceded by a major storm nor strong northeasterly winds.

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**Whip-poor-will alights on observer's head.** Various accounts in ornithological literature have shown the Whip-poor-will to be quite unafraid of man on occasion. The following experience records another instance of this characteristic being carried to a surprisingly high degree of fearlessness.

The wooded ridge behind my residence (near Accord, Ulster Co., N.Y.) has long been the summer home of Whip-poor-wills and not infrequently they include my yard in their nightly circuit of hunting. In this region the first call is usually heard in the latter part of April, indicating their arrival from the south. On May 11, 1973, about dusk, we had the pleasure of having one of the birds appear in the yard and commence "shaking the dusk" with his loud repetitious whip-poor-willing.

Two days later, May 13th, again at dusk, I deliberately left the house with the intent of listening for the distant call of a Whip-poor-will which seems to have a different appeal than when heard close by. In stepping from the doorway to the walk I was met with a glucking note (Not unlike one of the Catbird's notes) and at the same time saw a Whip-poor-will rise from the ground about 10 feet in front of me and land on the picnic table nearby. I remained still and watched.

From its actions it appeared to me that the bird had found fair hunting in this vicinity as exhibited by the number of times it took off, flying about the yard with frequent upsweeps, flycatcher fashion, then cutting back groundward seeking to alight on some object for a brief time before making another flight. My presence did not seem to have any disturbing effect as it would make flights that brought it so close to me that I could hear the flutter of wings when it made a sudden maneuver. Once it landed on a large stone in the rock-garden and was not more than 6 feet in front of me. My big surprise came when it made one of its upsweeps near the corner of the house, cutting back and then, flying along over the walk in front of the house, came directly toward me and without hesitation landed on the top of my head (crew-cut hair style). The landing was so light and effortless that I could feel nothing except the slight pressure of the buoyant feathers resting on the hair stub. The bird felt incredibly light. When the lift-off came, it too, was so effortless that the only sensation that told me it was gone was the release of the slight tactile pressure of the feathers against the hair.

The bird remained in the vicinity a short time longer, suddenly disappearing and was not seen or heard again that evening. It was of interest to note that during this incident only one note was used and this was repeated many times.

Fred N. Hough, R#1, Accord, N.Y. 12404

**Mourning Warbler nest in marginal habitat.** On 8 August 1971 I found a nest of *Oporornis philadelphia* in a 30-acre study plot at East Branch, Delaware County, New York. The site was on the northwest slope of near-climax maple-oak-birch forest at an altitude of about 1200 feet. The canopy is about 20 m high and is entire. The substratum is sparse, and the ground cover by mid-summer is knee-high and dense, consisting mostly of ferns, Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum* sp.), and White Snakeroot (*Eupatorium rugosum*). The nearest edge is about 240 m distant.

The bulky open cup was concealed in a stand of Silvery Spleenwort (*Asplenium acrostichoides*) 65 cm tall. The bottom of the nest was 17-20 cm above the forest floor, supported solely by ferns, and consisted of a multitude of dead stipes of Silvery Spleenwort. The stipes which were 95% of the mass were rather uniformly 150 mm in length, and were laid up in a funnel-shaped space between the flaring blades of the fern. A few twigs of Flowering Raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*) and an unidentified herbaceous plant (aster?) were also used in the outer nest. The cup consisting 80 percent of fine black rootlets, 20 percent of narrow strips of grape-vine (*Vitis* sp.) bark, and thinly lined with Porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*) guard hairs and other unidentified short hairs, was 55 mm in diameter and 40

mm. deep. The maximum outside height of the nest was 100mm, the outside diameter 125-150 mm, and the sides were 47mm thick.

Nichols (*Birds of America*, 1936) says that the Mourning Warbler nests in dry cut-over clearings or swampy ground. Bent (*Life Histories of American Wood Warblers*, 1953) says "seldom in shady woods". Pough (*Audubon Bird Guide*, 1946) states that "the essential habitat" is an extensive, dense stand of shrubbery. The nest that I found in marginal habitat may be explained by reviewing recent plant succession in the area. After limited selective cutting of mature timber in the tract in 1959, berry tangles sprang up on about 10 percent of the forest floor. In 1965 I found four singing males. As the canopy gradually closed again, the tangles ceased to flourish and the habitat became marginal for Mourning Warblers. By 1971 only one pair returned to the tract. In 1972 there were none. Nesting materials mentioned in the literature are dead leaves, coarse fibers, and grass. I find no mention of fern strips. In marginal habitat this pair of Mourning Warblers used a large proportion of atypical nest material.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SPRING SEASON

FRITZ SCHEIDER

April entered warm, wet, and mild with some really splendid days around Easter (April 22); May, however, was persistently cool, very cloudy, very wet, and with some extraordinarily late snowfalls upstate (3,5). Warbler flights were sparse (2,3,4,5) with only May 11-12 downstate and May 28-30 upstate as good wave days. Most migrant species were delayed, some markedly so, e.g. Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and the major tallies and/or peak dates were four to ten days later than usual. A gaudy array of southern "overshoots" (Prothonotary Warbler—3,10, Yellow-throated Warbler—2,10, Summer Tanager—2,10, and Blue Grosbeak—10), primarily from Long Island and the Lake Ontario littoral brightened an already rarity-rich spring (vide infra).

The recent surge of pelagic trips received good coverage in the Region 10 report—tideless, saltwaterless upstaters can only drool while all those semi-sailors downstate happily unchuck and log shearwaters, petrels, jaegers, and Lord knows what else out at sea.

Cattle Egrets staged another vernal invasion (2,3,5,9,10) and small flocks rather than singles are now the rule; lesser numbers of Glossy Ibis were also reported (3,5,6,9). Waterfowl, both geese and ducks, left almost statewide in late March and early April; April numbers were uniformly few except of dabbers at Federal and State Refuges. Even fewer leftover ducks were noted in May and I suspect many Big Runs were shy of the usual late, list-swelling anatids one always hopes for. A heavy Lake Ontario White-winged Scoter flight (2,5) was associated with inland observations of both *Melanitta* scoters (3,4).



Turkey Vultures have increased sharply in the Lake Ontario hawk flights (2,5) with evidence of local, non-flight increases in other areas (4,6). The spring hawk migration for Lake Ontario (2,5), and the Catskills (9) merits attention, particularly the very late Broad-winged Hawk flight on the lakeshore. Both Eagles and Peregrine Falcon were reported widely, not because there are more, but probably because there are less, hence increasingly notable and reported.

Late shorebird flight with some excellent numbers and a really existing spring variety were evident in 2 and 3; however, judging from the paucity of comments elsewhere the statewide flight was incredibly poor; a very high number of Solitary Sandpiper were recorded upstate (3,5) but no assessment of this species came from elsewhere.

Both cuckoos were very scarce, more so upstate (3,5,6) and, where present, extremely tardy. The decline in Whip-poor-wills (2,3,5,7) and Common Nighthawk (2,3,5) continues but possibly the poor numbers of the latter are secondary to the very delayed migration (4,5,9). The recent acceptance of two "Traill's" flycatchers (Willow—"fitz-bew" and Alder—"wee-bee-o") warrants all observers to note song type very carefully and non-singing birds—of which there are many—should be lumped as *Empidonax* sp. and forgotten.

Swallows as migrants seemed to fare moderately well but resident swallows (5,9), and specially Purple Martin (3,5,9), appear to be much reduced.

Both warblers and vireos were notable for variety and tardiness with particularly heavy flights of Cape May (4,5, also noted in 6,7), Myrtle (5), Bay-breasted (3,4,5) and Prairie Warblers (9). Black-throated Green Warblers were noted as very scarce on their Adirondack breeding grounds (7) and subsequent careful counts of this species there are certainly in order. Numerous counts mention Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler numbers with Blue-winged continuing expansion into previous Golden-winged range and Golden-winged reported farther north; a rash of hybrids (3,5,9,10) were reported but strangely none were reported from the large downstate contact zone in Region 9.

Orchard Orioles attempted nesting in 2,3, and 9, a possible prelude to the recapture of their extensive state breeding range of the early nineteen hundreds.

The May flight of Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, and Red Crossbill occurred pan-regionally (2,3,4,5,6,7,9) and some smaller groups of the last two tarried long enough to ignite speculation of possible out-of-range breeding attempts. House Finch continue to spread (2,3,4,5,6) and unless an account of their eastern range and expansion gets into all the current field guides soon, all "feeding-station" Redpolls, even in a Redpoll winter, must become suspect. Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows were widely noted as either scarce or decreasing (3,4,5,6,7,9); in some

cases Grasshopper Sparrow were reportedly very early in May but could not be found thru the month thereafter.

The spring rarities list has a very strong flavor of southern "overshoots", this despite the poor showing of southerly winds thru most of the season; similarly upstate had a fine array of "coast — to — inland" birds which may have been stopped by the innumerable rainstorms rather than passing over in the usual non-stop northbound migration. The Adirondack sector had a good collection of northern rarities (q.v.) and a "state lister" would do well to read that report in toto. The many rare birds included — Great Cormorant (5), Glossy Ibis (3,5,6,9), Surf Scoter (4), Swainson's Hawk (5), Sandhill Crane (2), Whimbrel (3), Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits (2), Ruff (3), Avocet (3), Black-necked Stilt (10), Lesser Black-backed Gull (5), Little Gull (3), Black-billed Magpie (3), Common Raven (7), White eyed Vireo (2,4), Swainson's Warbler (10), Yellow-throated Warbler (2,10), Kentucky Warbler (4,5,10), Summer Tanager (2,10), and Blue Grosbeak (10).

And for the closing, admonitions — keep counts carefully; report not just species, but numbers of each; document your rarities; and get your reports to your regional editors on time.

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## REGION 2 — GENESEE

THOMAS E. TETLOW

Rochester experienced what statisticians would call an average Spring. April temperatures and rainfall were slightly above average, 48 degrees and 3.21 inches, respectively; while May was average with 55 degrees and 2.66 inches. Early April was rather cold and wet with some snowfall on the 10th. The balance of April was very pleasant with above average temperatures. The first Broad-winged Hawks and an Osprey appeared on the 15th with other notable flights occurring on the 21st and 22nd. May was very pleasant both weather and birding wise. With the exception of the 28th and 29th when we experienced spectacular flights, no large flights occurred. Small flights were noted on the following days: 2, 12, 19, 22, 26 and 30th. Foliage was advanced enough throughout May to make birding a constant challenge.

**RARITIES INCLUDE:** Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Sandhill Crane, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Hudsonian Godwit, Wilson's Phalarope, Boreal Chickadee, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Summer Tanager, House Finch.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** BB — Braddock Bay; DEP — Durand Eastman Park; WEB — Webster; WP — Webster Park; WLS — west Lakeshore.



**OBSERVERS:** MC — Michael Carlson; JCL — Julie Claffey; J&JC — Jack & Joyce Connor; JC — Jerry Czech; PD — Patty Dutcher; ME — Mike Ehlers; WCL — Walter Listman; WL — Warren Lloyd; J&TM — Joe & Thelma McNett; GM — Gordon Meade; LM — Laura Moon; NM — Neil Moon; ROH — Richard O'Hara; MAS — Mary Ann Sunderlin; JT — Joe Taylor; MT — Mike Tetlow; TT — Tom Tetlow; DT — Dave Themmel; GOS — Genesee Ornithological Society; MOB — many observers.

**LOONS — DUCKS:** Common Loon: reached their peak the last week of April — several reports of 12-14 birds from various points along the lakeshore. Red-throated Loon and Red-necked Grebe were unreported, while Horned Grebe appeared in good numbers. Double-crested Cormorant: 1 April 19 BB (WCL) only report for period. A new Great Blue Heron rookery with approximately 8 nests was found south of Avon, N.Y. Cattle Egret: 7-10 arr April 22 present throughout rest of period BB (MOB) new high for area. Great Egret: max 1 April 21-May 13 & 23 — all reports from WLS (GOS-MC). **SNOWY EGRET:** 1-3 May 13-16 BB (J&JC et al) this is our first report since May 1966 and a new high for the area. All other herons seem to be in good numbers with Least Bitterns more conspicuous than usual, probably due to the high water level. Apparently the early thaw kept most of the migrant ducks moving through our area without any large concentrations forming. A single Brant was observed May 11 WP (WL). Local puddle ducks, namely Mallard, Black and Blue-winged Teal appear in good numbers and seem to be having good nesting success, Mallards especially seem to be doing very well — almost every puddle has its brood. White-winged Scoter: 650 May 13 BB (WCL).

**HAWKS — OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: 153 April 16 BB (LM et al); 82 April 21 BB (GOS) were both new highs for the area. Goshawk: 1-4 migrants were reported almost daily throughout April WEB-BB (JC et al). Sharp-shinned Hawk: high count for each month was 150 April 22 BB (GOS); 330 May 2 BB (MC). Coopers Hawk: 15 April 21 WEB (JC). Red-tailed Hawk: local birds present in good numbers — max migrants 80 April 15 BB (GOS). Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 April 6 WEB (JC). Broad-winged Hawk: counts of 1000 or more — 1000 April 22 BB (GOS); 5000 May 2 BB (MOB); 2486 May 3 BB (MOB); 1000 May 9 WEB (MOB); 2500 May 10 WEB (JC); 4950 May 29 WEB (JC); it is interesting to note that the May 29 flight passed in less than two hours. Rough-legged Hawk: 9 April 21 BB (GOS). **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 adult April 21 BB (GOS); 1 imm April 21 BB (GOS). **BALD EAGLE:** our local nest at Hemlock Lake has been destroyed — mother nature being the cause. and the birds have not been reported from that area; migrants include 1 imm April 22 BB (WL&MAS); 1 imm May 3 WEB (WL); 1 imm May 29 WEB (WL). Marsh Hawk: 21 April 21 BB (GOS); there is at least one pair attempting to nest on BB. Osprey: 11 April 21 BB (GOS); 10 May 29 DEP (PD). **PEREGRINE FALCON:** 1 May 2 WEB (TT), this was our only report for the period and our 4th for the year. **MERLIN:** 1 April 16 DEP (ROH); 1 May 6 BB (NM, MT, TT); 1 May 13 WLS (MT, TT). American Kestrel: although numbers of migrants were low, local birds seem to be present in very good numbers. Ruffed Grouse: although this bird is fairly common in areas east and south of the city, it is noteworthy when it occurs in some of its old haunts, namely 1 May 9 Mendon Ponds Park (GOS); 1 May 20 Scottsville (JT et al). **SANDHILL CRANE:** 1 April 16 WEB (Jerry & Carol Czech & R. Cooper), this is the first report for Monroe County — the bird was seen flying in a west to east direction at approximately 3:30 p.m., the flight alternating between flying in circles and short glides. Shorebirds were present in good numbers from mid-April through the end of the period. Reports of Dunlin and Semipalmated Sander were numerous with almost every puddle producing its share. Some of the more noteworthy records include — Black-bellied Plover: only two reports for area

— 4 May 6 WLS (ROH); 6 May 27 BB (MOB). *WILLET*: 1 May 20 BB (JT et al). Greater Yellowlegs: 23 May 29 WLS (GOS). Dunlin: 1 April 17 WLS (K. Doris, M. Magee, D. Wilton) this is slightly early for our area. *MARBLED GODWIT*: 1 May 17-19 WLS (J&TM et al). *HUDSONIAN GODWIT*: 1 May 20 BB (JCL.TT). *WILSON'S PHALAROPE*: 1 May 6 WLS (MG); 2 May 20 Carlton (WCL et al). Glaucous Gull: 1 April 22 BB (GOS); 1 May 6 DEP (MT&TT); 1 May 15 DEP (PD). Iceland Gull: 1 May 13 DEP (PD). Common and Caspian Terns were in low numbers throughout the period, while Black Terns were present in very good numbers. The not too often found nest of a Long-eared Owl was discovered in Greece April 7 (NM, ME, DT) — by mid May it was deserted and presumably unsuccessful. Saw-whet Owl: 1 April 7 Greece (NM, ME, DT); 1 May 9 BB (MC, F. Berbig).

**GOATSUCKERS — STARLINGS**: Whip-poor-will was scarce as a migrant and Common Nighthawk still seems low in numbers — loss of habitat due to urban renewal could be the reason. All resident woodpeckers reported in good numbers. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 1 May 27 WLS (WL, MAS); 1 May 27 WEB (WL, MAS); 1 May 30 Pittsford (GM). *BOREAL CHICKADEE*: 2 April 21 BB (MT); 1 April 22 BB (GOS); 1 May 2 WP (MT.TT). Carolina Wren: the pair that spent the winter in Rochester were successful in their nesting attempt and were repored to have been feeding in mid May (F. Myers).

**VIREOS — WARBLERS**: *WHITE-EYED VIREO*: 1 April 26 BB (JCL, H. Steinhauser); 1 May 11-13 DEP (K. Doris, D. Wilton et al). *WORM-EATING WARBLER*: 1 May 12 Irondequoit (NM, ME, DT) this infrequent warbler was last reported from our area in Sept 1969. *YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER*: 1 May 2 BB (GM) last reported in April 1958. Pine Warbler: 1 May 22 Powder Mill Park (K. Doris, A. Stear) this is a very late report and apparently not a possible nesting bird as it has been unreported since. *PRAIRIE WARBLER*: 1 May 13 Greece (J&JC). *CONNECTICUT WARBLER*: 1 May 11 Fairport (F. Phelps).

**BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS**: The Western Meadowlark present for several years has been unreported this season. *YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD*: 1 May 16 WEB (Carol Czech et al), this first year breeding male was obliging enough to get caught in a duck pen where it was observed by several people before escaping some five hours later. *ORCHARD ORIOLE*: 2 May 12-31 Carlton (WL), this is the second year the birds were observed nesting in the area.. Rusty Blackbird: reported from several areas in good numbers — max 200 May 2 Scottsville (NM). *SUMMER TANAGER*: 1 May 22 BB (GOS) first report since May 1947. Evening Grosbeak: reported in good numbers throughout period — we had a total of 35 reports with a max of 175 May 2 DEP (J&TM). Purple Finch also are being reported in good numbers. *HOUSE FINCH*: 1 May 11 Penfield (F. Munson); 1 May 13, 15 Fairport (F. Phelps); 1 May 24, 25 WEB (A&B Kemnitzner). Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill were also reported throughout the period, 14 and 8 reports respectively.

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## REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

DOROTHY W. McILROY

April temperature averaged 1 or 2 degrees warmer than normal, rainfall was somewhat above normal. Cool and wet weather in the first half, with snow on the 10th. was balanced by an unusually warm, dry, sunny period around Easter,

April 22, with a high of 80 degrees. One expected birds to arrive early, but they didn't. May averaged 3 to 4 degrees below normal, with much cloudy weather and frequent light rains, although total rainfall was slightly below normal. On May 17 the latest measurable snowfall ever recorded left 1 to 3 inches in the Finger Lakes. Temperatures were low enough so that in some areas snow stayed on the ground for a couple of days.

Migration of geese and ducks was early, peak goose population occurring in March instead of April, and most migrant geese and ducks had left before the end of April. Duck numbers were low. High water in most areas left little habitat for shorebirds. The exception was Montezuma Refuge, where the Main Pool was drained replacing duck habitat with shorebird mud flats. Many of the remaining puddles were so far out that identification, especially of "peeps", was often impossible except right after rain when there were temporary puddles near the dike. Small landbird migration tended to be late showing up in numbers. Most warbler species were 4 days to a week or more late.

Unusual sightings were 2 Ruffs and an Avocet at MNWR, Little Gull and Black-billed Magpie (an escape?). A Long-eared Owl nested near Ithaca.

Contributors and area compilers: WEB—Walter Benning; JB—Jack Brubaker, Watkins; NC—Noel Cutright; Frank Guthrie, Keuka; Robert Gustafson, Wildlife Biologist at MNWR, all MNWR records not otherwise attributed are from his Refuge report; WH—Wilfred Howard; MJ—Maj. Morgan Jones; DK—Doug Kibbe; DM—Dorothy McIlroy; DP—David Peakall; JT—James Tate; JW—Jayson Walker; MW—Mary Welles, Elmira.

Abbreviations: Cay—Cayuga; MNWR—Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge; Sen L—Seneca Lake; THS—Texas Hollow Sanctuary, Schuyler County.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 6 Apr 5 Lamoka L (JB); max 38 May 7 and May 17 Cay L (Dr. VanDyke). Red-necked Grebe: adult in full breeding plumage May 13 Cay L. Horned Grebe: large rafts, one of 80 birds, Apr 7 Cay L (NC); last—May 19 Sen L (MJ). Double-breasted Cormorant: only report Apr 25 Stewart Pk Ithaca. Great Blue Heron: max 33 May 15 MNWR. Green Heron: first 2 Apr 4 MNWR. Cattle Egret: 1 May 12 near Catherine (B. Strath). Great Egret: 1 May 5 MNWR. Black-crowned Night Heron: first Apr 19 MNWR, max 30 there May 30; none Elmira area again this year. *GLOSSY IBIS*: May 7-14 MNWR, max 7 May 13 (mob); 8 Apr 28 flying over Yatesville (M. Lerch et al), first Yates County record, 3 Apr 29 feeding near there.

Apr peak for geese at MNWR, Apr 12—Canada 37,000, Snow 900, Blue 1200, all below Mar peaks. Brant: 2 Apr 10 Seneca Army Depot (T. Mort fide MJ). Peak duck numbers MNWR compared with recent years: Mallard 240 Apr 4 usually 1000-1500), Black 230 Apr 4 (Mar peak 300, previous low 500 in '71), Shoveler 120 Apr 4 (previous low 280 in '70). Most Pintails had left before Apr 1. In contrast, Galwall 600 Apr 23 was highest ever and Green-winged Teal 1200 Apr 4 was about double usual number. European Wigeon: 1 Apr 30 MNWR. Almost no Redheads and Canvasbacks were at MNWR during Apr and May. No Canvasbacks were reported at Elmira this spring. Ring-necked Duck: present on many small ponds Cay Basin early Apr, max MNWR 100 Apr 4; in Elmira only 2 sightings during entire spring migration in contrast to past 2 years when many were reported. Oldsquaw: max 42 Apr 26 Sen L (MJ). White-winged Scoter: male Apr 10 Cay L (NC,DK); 1 May 4-6 Elmira (WH). Surf Scoter: 35 Apr 10 Cay L (NC,DK).

HAWKS—OWLS: Turkey Vulture: first 3 Apr 5 Ithaca (P. Allan); more than usual reports Watkins area. Goshawk: mid Apr near Ithaca; adult Apr 12 THS (JB); 1 Apr 23 Harris Hill Elmira (WH). Sharp-shinned Hawk: reported regularly in Ithaca in Apr; only 1 report Elmira. Cooper's Hawk: 1 seen regularly Ithaca; active nest near THS (JB); 2 reports Elmira. Red-shouldered Hawk: none Elmira until June; reported Sapsucker Woods- airport area Ithaca and Connecticut Hill. Broad-winged Hawk: reported in Watkins area at Burnt Hill, Texas Hollow and Connecticut Hill after migration, all possible breeding areas (JB). Bald Eagle: seen irregularly MNWR; adult May 13 near Cayuta (JB); 1 May 12. Elmira. Osprey: fewer than last year Elmira; good migration Ithaca.

Virginia Rail: late at Elmira, not seen until May 12. Sora: first Apr 19 MNWR (M. Hughes); not seen near Elmira until May 12. Common Gallinule: very scarce at MNWR—result of poor nesting success last June—; late arr Elmira, May 12; "high population" in Montour-Watkins Marsh in May (JB). Coot: also scarce MNWR; only Elmira report 1 Apr 14.

Some of the shorebird records from MNWR, reported by WEB unless otherwise noted: Semipalmated Plover max 12 May 22; Golden Plover May 13 (NC,DK et al) and May 24; Black-bellied Plover max 45 May 22; Ruddy Turnstone 2 May 13 (NC et al), max 19 May 22; Solitary Sandpiper max 50 May 5 (MJ); Whimbrel 1 May 29; Red Knot 1 Apr 24, early (M. Shepherd, DM), max 74 May 21—"by far the largtst number I have never seen at MNWR"—WEB; Pectoral Sandpiper max 40 Apr 18 (NC); Least Sandpiper max 50 May 22; Dunlin max 440 May 22; Stilt Sandpiper 1 May 21; Semipalmated Sandpiper max 1500 May 29; *RUFF* imm male May 13 (NC,DK et al), male in full breeding plumage May 18; *AVOCET* May 21-24; Wilson's Phalarope May 22 (R. Chipley). There were few shorebird reports from elsewhere. Blackbellied Plover and Ruddy Turnstone: 1 each May 30 Horseheads (WH). Upland Sandpiper: first Apr 20 Dryden (DP); few and late Elmira where much of their nesting ground has been occupied by HUD trailers since the flood and where trailers have been removed, hayfields have been cut leaving little long grass habitat (MW). White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 May 31 Elmira (WH).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 170 Apr 10 Cay L (NC). *LITTLE GULL*: 2 adults May 13 Canoga Marsh Cay L. (J. Horne, DM et al); adult and imm May 22 MNWR (S. Sage, T. Dittrich). Black Tern: first Apr 1 Shelldrake (JT), very early; max 75 May 14 MNWR. Caspian Tern: only report 2 May 7 MNWR. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: first May 6 Ithaca; not reported Elmira until May 19; none Keuka. Black-billed Cuckoo: first May 12 Elmira, late; only 2 records Keuka; several Ithaca reports. *BARN OWL*: May 17 Waterloo (IW); May 19 near Geneva (M. Cain). Great Horned Owl: several nests Cay Basin; nest at Caton, one young fell out and was taken to Lab of Ornithology; nest with 2 or 3 young Sampson St Pk, Sen L (MJ). *LONG-EARED OWL*: nest at Ithaca, first in several years; May 19 Geneva area. Short-eared Owl: at least 1 at Watts Rd s of Waterloo until mid Apr.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: 1 May 12 Catlin, Elmira's only record, formerly heard in 2 or 3 other places there; 1 May 28 Altay s of Dundee. Common Nighthawk: very scarce; first 2 May 13 Ithaca; only 1 record each Elmira and Penn Yan. Chimney Swift: general arrival in numbers Apr 22-27. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: very scarce. Red-headed Woodpecker: 2 Elmira reports; a number of Ithaca reports including 2 nesting reports; several locations Watkins area. Eastern Kingbird: first May 2 Elmira, about a week late; numbers seem to be low. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 2 May 6 Ringwood e of Ithaca, still there May 13 (G. & M. Shepherd), often missed. Alder Flycatcher: first May 6 near Ithaca (JT); none Elmira where formerly there were many. Willow Flycatcher: May 29 near Ithaca (P. P. Kellogg). Eastern Wood Pewee: very late



arr Keuka, not until May 30. Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 31 Michigan Hollow s of Ithaca: first Apr 16 Dryden; numbers low Cay Basin; fewer nesting birds at southern Sen L locations; only scattered pairs Sen L n. part.

**BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE:** 1 Apr 15 Dryden (Mrs. Stanley Fox, mob) stayed for several days-an escape? DK observed it from across the street with 30x scope, could see no sign of wear around base of bill or at ends of tail feathers as would be expected on an escape. Red-breasted Nuthatch: at Watkins, several at lower elevations than usual in late May, possibly nesting. Long-billed Marsh Wren: first May 7 MNWR (Fland, Small), very late. Short-billed Marsh Wren: May 13 Ithaca (JT). No marsh wren reports at Elmira. Gray Catbird: after one very early ar report in Ithaca, not seen in numbers until late Apr. Wood Thrush; somewhat late in arriving in numbers. Hermit Thrush: first Apr 14 Elmira, very late. Gray-cheeked Thrush: first May 8 Catlin; only other report May 19 near Geneva. Veery: another very late arrival, first May 9 Ithaca. Eastern Bluebird: good nesting reports Keuka. Golden-crowned Kinglet: present May 13 Burnt Hill near Watkins where it has recently been present all summer. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: good numbers early May. Loggerhead Shrike: 2 Apr reports Cay Basin the only ones.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** White-eyed Vireo: 1 May 12 Elmira; 1 May 19 Kendaia Creek near Sen L (MJ). Red-eyed Vireo: first May 11 Ithaca. late; good numbers after mid May. Philadelphia Vireo: one report, May 12 Elmira.

**WARBLERS-Prothonotary Warbler:** 1 May 12 near Keuka (M. Thompson, V. Whitaker) first record for that area, only one for Region. Worm-eating Warbler: 1 May 12 Elmira. Golden-winged Warbler: fewer than Blue-winged in Elmira, a reversal of former ratio; scarce Ithaca. Blue-winged Warbler: becoming common Keuka. Brewster's Warbler: first record in Keuka area May 16. Lawrence's Warbler: 1 May 12 Elmira. Parula Warbler: scarce and late. Cape May Warbler: good numbers, first May 13. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: fewer than usual Apr and early May. Cerulean Warbler: none Elmira; only 1 May 13 Cay Basin census at Camp Barton, present later at MNWR in good numbers and at Taughannock St. Pk. Bay-breasted Warbler: late, first May 13 Ithaca; none until May 19 Watkins. Blackpoll Warbler: good numbers last week of May. Pine Warbler: scarce and very late, not reported until May except for the only Watkins sighting Apr 7 (JB). Prairie Warbler: reported only from Elmira, first May 2. Louisiana Waterthrush: first Apr 20 Ithaca, 2 weeks late. Yellowthroat: several successfully wintered Watkins Marsh; one picked up in downtown Elmira May 22 in a comatose condition, with an enlarged tick on the breast protruding through the feathers, was dead next morning. Yellow-breasted Chat: first May 11 Ithaca; not reported until May 23 Elmira; has moved into brushy area near Tompkins Co airport where woods was cut a few years ago for runway approach. Wilson's Warbler: none in Elmira where they are usually fairly common; a number of Ithaca reports. Canada Warbler: none seen in Elmira area, apparently normal elsewhere.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: more plentiful than usual in Keuka area. Orchard Oriole: pair present again near Keuka; Ithaca pair missing. Scarlet Tanager: late and scarce Keuka; late arr elsewhere, not until May 10. Evening Grosbeak: a few still present at end of May in Ithaca. **DICKCISSED:** male May 15-17 at feeders near Elmira. House Finch: juvenals sighted at two locations in Elmira area; pair in Ithaca; male singing near Watkins Glen Apr 22; first record Keuka area Apr 24. Pine Grosbeak: 2 early Apr reports. Pine Siskins: seen regularly, last May 27 W Danby. Red Crossbill: a few in Ithaca to end of period; they left other parts of the Region May 12-24. Grasshopper Sparrow: scarce nearly everywhere; not reported in Elmira until May 8, no



record Keuka area until June; several at Tompkins County airport and other reports in Ithaca area. Henslow's Sparrow: very scarce; only 1 location in Elmira area; none Keuka; a few Cay Basin. *HARRIS' SPARROW*: the one at Phipps feeder in Ithaca since Dec 12 was last seen May 14.

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## REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

April averaged a little above normal temperature and precipitation. April 8 to 15 produced sub-freezing temperatures every night and 1 3-inch snowfall but the next week was well above normal in temperature. May was almost uniformly cold and wet. Nearly 2 inches of snow fell May 17-18.

Mrs. Margaret Bowman, reporting from East Branch in Delaware County, writes, "To say that the spring migration viewed from the ground was sparse this year is putting it mildly", and she provides comparative figures. During eighteen days in the field in May '73 she recorded 60 individuals of 14 migrant species of warblers, while 14 days of May '72 produced 211 individuals of the same species. The writer noted some of the highest chip counts during the evening were in the last week of May, so perhaps volume was recouped late when no one was watching.

One migrant species that was noticeably more common than usual was the Cape May Warbler. The non-migrant House Finch also continues to increase and Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills lingered in appreciable numbers all through May. Another Goshawk nest and one, possibly two, more Prairie Warbler summer sites were encouraging.

Rarities, at least for the Susquehanna Region, included a Double-crested Cormorant, a small flock of Surf Scoters and a Kentucky Warbler. An Orange-crowned Warbler and a Pine Warbler may belong on that list, although one suspects they are more common in the Region than historical records indicate.

Abbreviations: Bing—Binghamton; WP—Whitney Point.

Observers initials: J,CB—Jeanette and Cutler Baldwin; LB—Les Bernant; MB—Margaret Bowman; LC—Mrs. Lynn Clark; GC—Gail Corderman; A,MD—Anna and Marilyn Davis; W,LD—Warren and Louise Dean; MD—Mary Dobinsky; CG—Claire Gottschall; SH—Shirley Hartman; EH—Elva Hawken; CH—Claude Howard; D,ML—Dwight and Margaret Lynch; HM—Harriet Marsi; R,RP—Robert and Rite Pantle; MS—Mary Sheffield; EW—Elizabeth Washburn; DW—Don Weber; CW—Cora Wellman; R,SW—Ruth and Sally White; KW—Kathryn Wilson.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 May 23 still at Crumhorn Lake, near Oneonta (CW, MD), eclipse plumage. Horned Grebe: Apr 6 Candor (DW); 2 Apr 22 WP (MS); only 2 reports between. Pied-billed Grebe: Apr 14 WP (MS), the last report. Double-crested Cormorant: May 13 WP (MS), seldom seen here. Great Blue Heron: Apr 21 Candor (R,RP) and Owego (J,CB), early. Black-crowned Night Heron: seen several times flying over Ingraham Hill, south of Bing, in mid May (CH). Green-winged Teal: 2 Apr 4 Oneonta (KW, et al), the only report. American Widgeon: Apr 17 Candor (DW), last date. Ring-necked Duck: 10 May 12 Portlandville, near Oneonta, (KW, MD), latest report by 3 weeks. Lesser Scaup: Apr 1 Owego (J,CB). Common Goldeneye: Apr 7 Owego (J,CB), latest. Bufflehead: 1 Apr 4 Oneonta (KW, et. al.); 3 Apr 12 Chenango Bridge (A,MD); 2 reports between. Oldsquaw: Apr 6 Owego (D,ML); 3 Apr 14 WP (MS). Surf Scoter: 4 May 13 WP (MS), 7 or more the next day

in the same place (R,SW), almost never seen in Region. Hooded Merganser: still in Bing area May 13. Common Merganser: May 13 WP (MS). Red-breasted Merganser: 2 Apr 7 Oneonta Reservoir (KW,MD); Apr 8 Owego (J,CB).

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: 8 May 14 East Branch (MB), 5 Bing Apr 19 (CH) the best counts; seldom seen near Bing although reasonably common in Delaware County. Goshawk: Apr 10 Candor (DW); May 6 Endicott (R. & S. Lynch), active nest found and photographed. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 reports. Cooper's Hawk: 5 reports. Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 reports Broad-winged Hawk: May 6 Oneonta (MD), Chenango Forks (A,MD), first date. Marsh Hawk: Apr 6, 7 and 13 Vestal (EH); May 12 Oneonta (KM, MD). Osprey: 20 reports Apr 4 to May 13; May 26 and 28 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Bob-white: regular at Candor all period (DW). Turkey: 3 Apr 14 South Vestal (GC, W. Corderman); regularly the last 2 weeks of Apr Flemingville, in Tioga County, (Charles Truman). American Coot: Apr 7 Milford (MD); 2 Apr 14 WP (MS). Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 13 Vestal (HM, EW). Common Snipe: 9 Apr 4 Oneonta (FW, et al.). Spotted Sandpiper: Apr 23 Candor (DW), early. Solitary Sandpiper: Apr 25 Candor (DW), early. Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Apr 8 Sherburne (R,SW). Common Tern: May 13 WP (MS); May 26 Goodyear Lake, near Oneonta. Black Tern: May 14 WP (R,SW). Barred Owl: Apr 6 Bing (GC, et. al.); May 13 Bing. Long-eared Owl: 1 Apr 17 Delhi (LC).

**GOATSUCKERS—STARLING:** Whip-poor-will: heard several nights in mid-May on Ingraham Hill (CH). Nighthawk: May 26 Oneonta (Irene Wright), unusually late. Chimney Swift: 2 Apr 26 Walton (SH). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 1 Newark Valley (W,LD); 1 May 3 Milford (MD); no more until May 13. Pileated Woodpecker: 8 reports. Red-headed Woodpecker: at Candor in Apr (DW); May 7 and 13 Newark Valley (Louise Hover). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Apr 2 Candor (DW). Eastern Kingbird: May 2 Newark Valley (DW, DL); 1 May 2 Delhi (LC). Great Crested Flycatcher: May 13 Bing (MS et al.). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: May 26 Vestal (GC), the only report. Trail's Flycatcher: 1 May 17 Vestal (EH), earliest. Least Flycatcher: 1 May 1 Vestal (EH). Wood Pewee: May 19 Chenango Forks (A,MD) and Bear Spring Mountain (SH). Olive-sided Flycatcher: May 30 Milford (MD), the only report. Bank Swallow: May 1 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Rough-winged Swallow: 1 Apr 25 Sherburne (R,SW). Barn Swallow: Apr 16 Candor (R,RP). Purple Martin: Apr 20 Owego (J,CB). Tufted Titmouse: May 5 a recaptured banded bird had a well developed brood patch (GC); regular at a number of Bing localities; also reported from Oneonta (Irene Wright) and Owego (J, CB, D, ML, Emma Bushi). Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few almost everywhere in the Region all period. Brown Creeper: a pair completing a nest at East Branch May 14 (MB). House Wren: 1 Apr 15 Oneonta (E and F Vermilya). Winter Wren: May 20 East Branch (MB), last report; 3 other May reports from Bing area. Mockingbird: reported from Bing area, Delhi (LC, Mrs. M Carey), Owego (D,ML), Candor (DW) and Newark Valley (W,LD). Hermit Thrush: May 7 Oneonta (KW); seemed scarce. Swainson's Thrush: 3 banded May 17 Vestal (GC); six more reports to May 29. Gray-checked Thrush: 1 May 20 Sherburne (R,SW); 1 May 23 Vestal (EH). Veery: May 6 near Oneonta (MD). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 2 May 12 "nesting in willows at Milford Launch site"; May 13 Bing (R. Marsi); May 13 Newark Valley (Phil Biehl); May 26 Bing (MS). Golden-crowned Kinglet: May 27 Owego (D,ML), the only report after Apr 14. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 15 Apr 17 Delhi (LC) to May 14 East Branch (MB) and Vestal (GC) in good numbers; only 2 later reports, May 19 Bear Spring Mountain (SH) and May 26 Chenango Bridge (MS). Cedar Waxwing: continue to be scarce.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: White-eyed Vireo: May 13 near Halseyville, south of Bing (CG). Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 May 3 Delhi (LC); more numerous than usual. Solitary Vireo: May 2 Chenango Forks (A,MD), late. Philadelphia Vireo: 1 May 13 Apalachin (HM, LB). Warbling Vireo: 1 May 3 Norwich (R,SW), the only report before May 13. Golden-winged Warbler: May 6 Chenango Forks (A,MD); quite a few in Bing area but none anywhere else. Blue-winged Warbler: 1 May 8 East Branch (MB); May 23 Owego (J,CB); 3 Bing reports. Tennessee Warbler: May 13 Bing area, numerous until May 27. Orange-crowned Warbler: May 13 Halseyville (CG). Nashville Warbler: May 3 Choconut Center (MS). Parula Warbler: May 4 East Branch (MB), not many. Yellow Warbler: Apr 19 Bing (CH), no more until May 1. Magnolia Warbler: May 4 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Cape May Warbler: 3 May 1 Walton (SH), no more until May 10; 36 banded at Vestal from May 11 to 19 (GC) and numerous reports from most parts of the Region; last date May 25 Vestal (GC). Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 13 Bing. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: Apr 20 Chenango Forks (A,MD); 25 or more still at Oneonta May 16 (MD); last date May 28. Black-throated Green Warbler: 1 May 2 Delhi (LC). Blackburnian Warbler: 3 May 7 Delhi (LC). Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 10 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Bay-breasted Warbler: May 19 Vestal (Robert Schumann) and East Branch (MB); last report May 30 (MB). Blackpoll Warbler: 2 May 20 East Branch (MB). Pine Warbler: 1 Apr 20 Sherburne (R,SW). Prairie Warbler: May 2 near Vestal Center (EH), about 2 miles from the location where they have been resident for several years and where they arrived May 4 this year (EW) — both locations continue to be occupied; May 29 singing at East Branch (MB). Palm Warbler: Apr 22 Owego (J,CB); May 13 Halseyville (CG). Ovenbird: May 2 Delhi (LC). Northern Waterthrush: May 13 Bing. Louisiana Waterthrush: Apr 16 Bing (MS); Apr 22 Whitmarsh Hollow (DW). Kentucky Warbler: 1 banded May 17 Vestal (GC). Mourning Warbler: 1 banded May 17 Vestal (GC); 2 banded May 30 Vestal (EH); singing at East Branch May 29 (MB). Yellowthroat: Apr 23 Owego (J,CB); no more until May 3. Yellow-breasted Chat: May 19 Bing (MS); 1 banded May 30 Vestal (EH). Wilson's Warbler: May 13 Apalachin (HM, LB); only 2 other reports. Canada Warbler: May 13 Bing. American Redstart: May 6 Vestal (EH).

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 12 Owego (J,CB). Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: May 1 Endwell (Margaret Layton). Rusty Blackbird: Apr 21 Candor (DW). Scarlet Tanager: May 6 Vestal (EH). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 1 Chenango Forks (A,MD). Indigo Bunting: May 12 Owego (J,CB). Evening Grosbeak: still present at the end of May. Purple Finch: have remained common all spring. House Finch: regular at Vestal from mid May (GC) and still regular, as for several years, and in increasing numbers at a location in Bing (Eugene Kirch) and another in Endwell (Florence Linaberry). Pine Grosbeak: 10 May 7 East Branch (MB), last ones; reported from nowhere else during the period. Pine Siskin: present in shrinking numbers to the end of the period. Red Crossbill: present to the end of the period at several locations; seemed to be more common, particularly during May, than at any time in the last 20 years, although no single report records more than 12 individuals. Savannah Sparrow: Apr 15 Delhi (LC). Grasshopper Sparrow: May 13 Bing, the only report all spring. Henslow's Sparrow: May 3 Bing (MS); only 3 other reports, all in Bing area. Vesper Sparrow: Apr 7 Walton (SH). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: migrants to about May 5; small numbers to the end of the period. Tree Sparrow: Apr 18 last date. Chipping Sparrow: 1 Apr 16 Delhi

(LC). White-crowned Sparrow: May 3 Endwell (LB); May 27 Owego (D,ML), the only report after May 19. Fox Sparrow: 6 Apr reports — last date Apr 15. Lincoln's Sparrow: May 19 and 24 Vestal (EH), 1 banded each date; the only reports. Swamp Sparrow: Apr 25 Candor (DW).

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## REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

FRITZ SCHEIDER

Rain, rain, rain, rain, rain, — and if it didn't rain, it snowed in this second wettest spring of record. The first two weeks of April had virtually continuous rain and every local wetland flooded over. The last half of April had some clear spells but of such brief duration that hawk migration observations were literally a washout. Unseasonably warm but still wet weather in late April accelerated foliage markedly and early May birding was a squishy walk thru a leaf-rich, warbler-poor jungle. Cold weather and storms (eight inches of snow May 18 in southern Madison and Oneida Counties) in mid-May stalled the migration completely; this was followed by extensive rain to late May. May 29-31 saw the only true burst of spring warbler migration for the entire season — and then suddenly it was summer. The very high water levels of Lake Ontario precluded any concentration of gulls, terns, or shorebirds at low lying areas such as Sandy Pond, Salmon River, or Selkirk Shores State Park; however, gull concentrations on the breakwaters at Oswego and Fair Haven were quite impressive. The extensive flooding of many farm fields with the creation of abundant habitat may explain in part the diffuse reports and low tallies of migrant shorebirds.

Positives for the season include 1) very good numbers of Common Loon with many late birds; 2) a spurt of Cattle Egret; 3) good numbers of Canada Geese and a superb spring Brant flight; 4) good hawk flights, primarily in March and May with some record tallies (q.v.), except for a diffuse and protracted Broad-winged Hawk movement; 5) high counts and late dates for the larger gulls including "white-wingers"; 6) very good late May flight of flycatchers; 7) heavy Lake Ontario migration of swallows (q.v.); 8) excellent warbler counts for some species though virtually every species was late in arrival and in date of peak numbers; 9) a huge flight of Evening Grosbeak and Goldfinch with lesser numbers of Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, and Red Cross-bill; and 10) a heavy movement of White-crowned Sparrow.

Negatives include 1) poor numbers of all grebes; 2) very poor duck flight, especially so in dabblers and Aythya with virtually no late May residua; 3) a miserable shorebird migration, both in numbers and in variety; 4) very poor counts of Bonaparte's Gulls and all terns; 5) poor May migration of cuckoos; 6) paucity of caprimulgids, Chimney Swift, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird until late May; 7) very low tallies of Winter and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Hermit Thrush, and Eastern Bluebird; 8) incredibly low counts on all local Warbling Vireos; 10) very low spring counts of Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco, Chipping, Fox, and Lincoln's Sparrows and all the "meadow" sparrows.

Rarities for the spring period were many and include some exciting modern regional firsts — Great Cormorant, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Worm-eating Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, and Western Meadowlark.



Contributors for the spring season — B. Barnum, V. Billings, W. Brosseau, M. Champlin, D. W. Crumb, P. A. DeBenedictis, T. Dittrich, B. and S. Peebles, T. M. Riley, M. S. Rusk, F. G. Scheider, G. A. Smith, C. G. Spies, R. and J. Van Scoy, and C. Wernick.

Locality abbreviations — CV — Camillus Valley south of Camillus; DH — Derby Hill near Texas; FH and FHBSP — Fair Haven Beach State Park; HIGMA — Howland's Island Game Management Area near Port Byron; LOL — Lake Ontario littoral, the shoreline or the littoral woodlots (between DH and Oswego) that serve as migrant landbird traps; LSB — Little Sodus Bay; Oak — Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; Onon L — Onondage Lake; PSS — Peter Scott Swamp near Phoenix; SSSP — Selkirk Shores State Park near Port Ontario; SRF — Seneca River flats near Montezuma; Syr — Syracuse; L — lake; R — river; mob — multiple observers.

LOONS-DUCKS: Common Loon: arr Apr 3 Oswego (Wernick); max 152 DH to Oswego (PAD); loons present in small numbers thru May with dep date May 29. Horned Grebe: very poor flight — max only 18 LOL Apr 28 (GAS); dep date May 20, 1, Oswego R (FGS). *GREAT CORMORANT*: adult in breeding plumage May 19-20 Oswego Harbor (MSR, mob), first modern regional record — the species is ordinarily unknown away from salt water. Double-crested Cormorant: max 9 (7 ad, 2 imm) May 22 Oswego Harbor (DWC, GAS); very high numbers for spring.

Great Egret: 3 singles Apr 12 — May 5, LOL and Pennellville (mob). *CATTLE EGRET*: max 17 Apr 20 near Texas (W. F. Minor, GAS); 1-4 there to May 15 but none reported away from that sector. Least Bittern: 1 May 22 PSS is the only report — like the Black-crowned Night Heron and certain raptors, fast disappearing locally. *GLOSSY IBIS*: 1 only Apr 29 NMP Power Plant ponds (MSR, CGS).

Canada Goose: max 3350 SRF and HIGMA Apr 14; also 1615 Apr 28 Beaver Lake; exodus by May 5 with few cripples in last week of May at Onon L. Brant: max 700 May 19 LOL (GAS), best spring tally to date; singles to May 31. Snow and Blue Goose: very poor flight — only major numbers 25 Snows Apr 30 over Oswego (C. Wernick). Gadwall: very poor spring flight — max only 16 Fox Ridge Impoundments May 13 (MSR). American Green-winged Teal: the only dabbler in decent numbers this spring — max 116 Apr 14, combined tally FH and Clay Swamp; flocks of 20-80/day noted to third week of April, singles thereafter. *EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL*: drake Apr 13-14 Clay Marsh (FGS, mob), third record this spring. American Widgeon: terrible spring flight — max only 72 Apr 14 Clay Marsh, SRF and HIGMA; last May 13 Fox Ridge Imp. (MSR).

Redhead: max 60, Apr 1, combined tally Oneida and Beaver Lakes: Ring-necked Duck: very low numbers with max a mere 91 Apr 14; last, 4, May 6 (early dep) Pompey (DWC). Greater Scaup: dep date May 19, 3, Pompey (DWC, PAD). Lesser Scaup: dep date Apr 29, (early) 6, LSD. White-winged Scoter: heavy concentration at warm water effluent of NMP Power Plant the first half of May — max there 900 May 10; last noted May 24, 2, LSB. Common Merganser: max 57 Fox Ridge Imp., Apr 14, late for such numbers.

HAWKS-OWLS: Derby Hill raptor tallies are in chart form below — italicized numbers are record high tallies, impressively so in Goshawk and Golden Eagle. *SWAINSON'S HAWK*: adult light phase bird well seen by 11 observers Apr 22 — first modern regional record (see subsequent field note). Peregrine Falcon: total of three birds passed, all in Apr.

Ring-necked Pheasant: low numbers throughout — 1-9/day Common Gallinule: quite scarce — max only 5 May 5 LOL and PSS (PAD): most counts only 1-



2/day. The spring shorebird flight, both the mid-April and late May sections, was late in arrival, incredibly low in numbers, and miserable in variety. See following chart for arr, numbers, and dep dates.

	Arr date	Peak date	Seasonal total	Dep Date
Turkey Vulture	Mar 15,3	71 Apr 21	239	May 16,4
Goshawk	Mar 1,1	88 Mar 29	397	May 10,1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Mar 6,1	909 Apr 21	3913	May 29,1
Cooper's Hawk	Mar 6,4	40 Mar 29	257	May 10,1
Red-tailed Hawk	Mar 1,21	535 Mar 11	4080	May 29,9
Red-shouldered Hawk	Mar 3,1	113 Mar 25	542	May 10,1
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr 16,24	1947 Apr 22(Ad)	10,767	into June
		3515 Mar 29 (imm)		
Rough-legged Hawk	Mar 3,9	26 Mar 11	215	May 6,1
Golden Eagle	Mar 15,1	4 Apr 22	19	Apr 23,2
Bald Eagle	Mar 5,1	2 Mar 29	6	Apr 22,1
Marsh Hawk	Mar 3,5	50 Mar 29	436	May 28,1
Osprey	Apr 8,3	70 May 1	226	May 29,4
Merlin	Mar 25,1	2 Apr 21	7	May 2,1
American Kestrel	Mar 3,1	65 Apr 8	449	May 29,1

Note how extraordinarily scarce Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin and all species of "peep" sandpipers were this spring.

Upland Sandpiper: very scarce — max only 3 Apr 22 and May, 8, both DH; many former local breeding sites unoccupied this spring (cf. Red-headed Woodpecker). Rare shorebirds include a WILLET May 5, NMP Power Plant (DWC, PAD), the third spring regional record, and a male WILSON'S PHALAROPE May 16 at the same place (MSR, CGS).

Glaucous and Iceland Gulls: after a wretched winter showing, well above average spring numbers — max 7 Glaucous and 2 Iceland May 5 at NMP Power Plant (PAD); last Glaucous May 28, 1, Oswego Harbor (MSR,CGS). Great Black-backed Gull: spring max 32 Apr 28 Oswego Harbor; 4 to 11/day thru May at Oswego and/or the NMP Power Plant; high water prevented any accumulation of loitering gulls, terns, or shorebirds at Sandy Pond. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: adult in breeding plumage at LSB Apr 12 (PAD,FGS). Herring and Ring-billed Gulls: over 2000 Herring and 15,000 Ring-billed Gull LSB Apr. 12; both present in thousands thru early May (unusual for Herring); sharp drop-off in numbers in second week of May; residua of immatures on LOL but scarce away from there. Bonaparte's Gull: in contrast with the other gulls, very scarce — max only 4 Apr 14, HD; last one May 29 (late) LOL (GAS). All local tern species were late in arriving and very poor in numbers.

Both cuckoos extraordinarily scarce thru May — only 3 single Yellow-billed and 5 Black-billed reported for the entire month from 18 observers.

Great Horned Owl: new sites at Columbia Center (VB), east end of Clay Marsh (FGS), and Fair Haven Beach State Park (MSR). Barred Owl: new location near NMP May 26-27 (DWC, J. Linehan).

GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES: Whip-poor-will: arr May 3 Oswego (CW), scarce thru May with only 1-2/day at known stations. Common Nighthawk: arr May 16 (late) PSS (CGS); very scarce thru May with local max a mere 4 May 30; migrant max 90 (high) passing DH May 30 (GAS). Chimney Swift: arr Apr 21 1, Oswego (CW); local swifts in very low numbers (10 to 20/day); migrant max 190 May 28 at DH (GAS). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr May 8 DH; max 16 (low) May 28 DH; away from LOL, very scarce with 1-2/day.

	Arr date	Maximum	Dep date
Semipalmated Plover	May 17,4, NMP	9, May 28, Onon L	May 30,4, Onon L
Ruddy Turnstone	May 19,2, LSB	4, May 28, Oswego	May 28,7, Oswego
Solitary Sandpiper	Apr 15,1, DH	32, May 8, DH	May 22, 1, Pompey
Greater Yellowlegs	Apr 4,1, SRF	13, Apr 29, Clay & PSS	May 19, 1, Pennellville
Lesser Yellowlegs	Apr 11,1, SRF	17, May 9 & 12 NMP	May 30,1, Onon L
Pectoral Sandpiper	Apr 15,15 Pennellville	43, Apr 29, SRF	Apr 29,43, SRF
White-rumped Sandpiper	May 28,1, Onon L		May 30,1, Onon L
Least Sandpiper	May 3,2, NMP	36, May 17, Onon L	May 30,1, Onon L
Dunlin		6, May 19, LOL	May 28,2, Onon L
Short-billed Dowitcher	May 17,25, Onon L	25, May 17, Onon L	May 18,2, Onon L
Semipalmated Sandpiper	May 22,1, Onon L	62, May 28, Onon L	May 30,46, Onon L

Common Flicker: spring max 213 DH May 22 (FGS); still passing DH May 27 (late). Red-bellied Woodpecker: modest expansion—now regular in small numbers at FH, increasing numbers at South Onondaga, CV, and Oswego. Red-headed Woodpecker: max 9 May 10 NMP—many local stations in Syr and Oneida areas abandoned this spring (D. Ackley, FGS). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: very scarce as migrants—max only 3 Apr 19 Syr (TD) and also Apr 22 DH; last migrant noted May 12 at CV (PAD).

Eastern Kingbird: locally poor numbers; migration max 46 May 8 DH. Great Crested Flycatcher: numbers appear up—max 10 May 24 FH, SSSP. Eastern Phoebe: max 16 Apr 15 DH. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: date range May 26 to 31, total 12 individuals for season. Least Flycatcher: arr May 3, 1 Pompey (DWC); max 14 (low) May 22 and 26, S. Onondaga, CV. Eastern Wood Pewee: max only 7 (very low) May 29 DH, PSS (PAD). Olive-sided Flycatcher: date range May 26 to Jun 4, 7 individuals involved—above average.

Horned Lark: very scarce as breeding birds now—perhaps 14 breeding sites known locally.

Swallows in general are a disaster as breeders but flight birds past DH seemed in fair numbers—Tree 1650 Apr 19 DH; Bank 989 May 28 (very late) DH; Rough-winged 28 May 5 DH, PSS; Barn 843 May 1, 815 May 7 both DH; Cliff 313 (incredible!) May 28 (very late) DH; Purple Martin 100 (low) May 8 DH.

Blue Jay: moderate May flight with max 1100 May 10, other counts 535 May 19, 725 May 22, 589 May 29 all DH. Common Crow: total in excess of 30,000 birds at DH with 28,967 in March alone—no Apr flights of magnitude noted.

Boreal Chickadee: distinct lakeshore flight—date range Apr 19 to May 5 totaling 15 individuals. Tufted Titmouse: 1 May 22 NMP is the only report—where do the wintering Titmice disappear to each spring. Brown Creeper: poor spring flight with max only 10 Apr 17 Syr (TD). Winter Wren: very scarce as migrant—1–2/day with a max a mere 5 Apr 22 NMP—are they a winter wipe-out from the South's severe snows? Long-billed Marsh Wren: very scarce—max 7 May 28 PSS—the marshes remain but the wrens are gone. Mockingbird: singles May 19 DH and May 23 Cato; a pair thru May E Syracuse (N. Killoran). Brown Thrasher: max 15 May 7 Pompey; most counts only 1-4/day. Wood Thrush: max 38 May 13 HIGMA (CGS) and 35 May 15 LOL; most counts up. Hermit Thrush: very scarce—max 7 May 15 (late) LOL—most only 1-4/day another southern snowstorm wipe-out? Swainson's Thrush: arr May 10, 1 Syr; max 31 (along with 8 Gray-cheeked) May 29 Syr. Veery: arr May 7, 2, Oneida L; max only 20 May 27 LOL. Eastern Bluebird: a disaster species locally—only 8 breeding locations known for entire region—incredibly scarce.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 10 May 13 CV; 1-6/day other areas. Golden-crowned Kinglet: mediocre spring flight—counts 20-25/day thru Apr 21, dep date May 18 (late) 1 S Onondaga. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr date Apr 15 1 NMP; max only 22 Apr 22 LOL; dep date May 22 2 Mexico Pt. Water Pipit: very scarce—max 86 Apr 1 S Onondaga (JWP) and 51 May 8 DH; last date May 19; many observers had none.

**BOHEMIAN WAXWING:** 4 individuals Apr 7–19 Syr and PSS in incursion of Cedar Waxwings; the latter had max of 130 May 28 and 118 May 29 both DH; lesser numbers of Cedars in last half of May.

**VIREOS—WARBLERS:** Yellow-throated Vireo: definitely up—8 May 13 CV and May 26 CV and Syr. Solitary Vireo: scarce as migrant with 1-2 day only, Apr 20 Pompey to May 31, Syr the last a record dep date. Red-eyed Vireo: main numbers arrived late with max 30 May 27 DH, NMP. Philadelphia Vireo:

date range May 14 – 22, total 5 individuals – very scarce. Warbling Vireo: arr May 1 Mexico Pt (late); poor numbers thru May 9 (1-7/day) except 15 May 15 LOL (PAD).

Spring Warbler data is summerized in chart form. Note the very high numbers of Golden-winged, Tennessee, Yellow Cape May, Yellow-rumped, Bay-breasted and Blackpoll Warblers, and Yellowthroat and the dismal numbers of Magnolia, Black-throated Green, Wilson's, and Canada Warblers and Northern Waterthrush.

Total of 6 Brewster's and 2 Lawrence's Warblers reported for the spring.

Rare warblers for the spring include *WORM-EATING WARBLER*, a single bird, May 12 CV (T. Harland, U. Boggs) first spring record in six years; *PRAIRIE WARBLER*, an adult male May 10, Hickory Grove (FGS); and single *KENTUCKY WARBLERS* May 12 CV (DWC, mob and May 24 Pompey (DWC, MSR, RE long), the second and third records locally.

**BLACKBIRDS–SPARROWS:** Bobolink: arr May 6 4 DH; max 150 May 15 DH. Eastern Meadowlark: max 346 Mar 25 DH with 119 still passing there May 28 – very late for such numbers. *WESTERN MEADOWLARK*: 1 NMP Power Plant May 16-28 (MSR,CGS). Northern Oriole: arr May 1 one DH; max 56 May 28 DH; daily counts 4-30/day thru last three weeks of May. Rusty Blackbird: max 325 Apr 6 multiple areas (CGS); dep date May 19 2 Pompey (DWC,PAD). Small numbers of all black Icterids except Rusty still passing DH in last week of May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr May 6 1 Ilion (R&JVS); max 20 both May 29 DH and May 30 Syr (late). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr May 2 1 each DH and Oakwood; max 25 May 13 CV and again 25 May 15 LOL. Evening Grosbeak: present in numbers (20-45/day) thru Apr and early May; massive Ontario lakeshore flight 3425 passing DH May 8; dep date May 31 6 Oak. Purple Finch: late Apr – early May flight with max 500 DH May 8; sharp drop in numbers in next five days but many local areas with established pairs. House Finch: at least 3 pairs attempted nesting this spring in Syr area. Pine Siskin: heavy late Apr – early May flight (86 May 8 DH, 41 May 31 Oswego) with leftover birds into June; mostly in evergreen plantations but at times even in dooryard conifers – maybe a few will nest hereabouts. Red Crossbill: flocks of 7 – 26/day reported thru May (DWC,VB,MC) and flocks of variable number noted along LOL; present into Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 23 May 12 DH, NMP; most counts only 1-10/day, amazingly scarce for a formerly common bird. Grasshopper Sparrow: 3 singles May 6-31 are the only reports – virtually wiped out locally! Vesper Sparrow: incredibly scarce – max a low 8 May 20 S. Onondaga (TMR). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: scarce as a migrant with max only 45 Apr 14 FH and HIGMA; most tallies only 6-15/day; dep date May 22 1 Syr (MC). Chipping Sparrow: a miserable spring flight with max a very low 36 May 8 DH – ? perhaps another species hard hit by the severe southern snowstorms of '72-'73? White-crowned Sparrow: arr May 2 two Oswego; seasonal max 165 May 10 NMP; dep date May 27 2 DH. Fox and Lincoln's Sparrow: very sparse flight of both – max Fox 4 Apr 14 Pompey and max Lincoln's 3 May 10 NMP; many active birders saw none of either this spring. Snow Bunting: 1 Apr 29 NMP Power Plant is a record dep date (WB,FGS).

417 S. Main Street North Syracuse, New York 13212

Warbler Species	Arr date	Peak Number & Date	Dep Date
Black-and-white	May 2,2, Oak	8, May 15, DH, NMP	May 22,2, NMP
Golden-winged	May 6,4, CV	15, May 12, CV	May 24,1, FHBS
Blue-winged	May 9,1, S. Onon	5, May 26, near Mexico	—
Tennessee	May 12,3, N. Syr	30, May 30, Syr	Jun 1,4 Oak
Orange-crowned	May 10,1, Hickory Grove	multiple singles	May 22,1, Mexico Pt.
Nashville	May 2,1, Oak	16, May 13, Oak	Jun 1,1 Oak
Parula	May 4,1, Oak	4, May 14, Oak	Jun 1,1, Oak
Yellow	May 1,1, DH	148, May 13, HIGMA	—
Magnolia	May 2,2, Wampsville	10, May 27, NMP	May 31,1, Oak
Cape May	May 5,1, Mexico Pt	32, May 22, Mexico Pt	Jun 1,1, Oak
B-t Blue	May 4,2 Oak	8, May 15, DH,NMP	May 31,3, Oak
Yellow-rumped	Apr 19,4, DH	1757, May 8, DH	May 30,3, Oak
B-t Green	May 2,2, Oak	20, May 19, DH,LOL	May 31,2, Pompey
Cerulean	May 8,1, N Syr	12, May 13, CV	—
Blackburnian	May 3,1, Pompey	15, May 27, DH,LOL	May 31,2 Oak
Chestnut-sided	May 8, 1, N Syr	10, May 27, DH to Oswego	—
Bay-breasted	May 11,1, Oak	100, May 30, Oak	May 31,2, Oak
Blackpoll	May 15,1, Oak	40, May 30, Oak	Jun 1,9, Oak
Pine	Apr 22,15, DH,NMP	15, Apr 22, DH,NMP	—
Palm	Apr 22,4, DH,NMP	4, Apr 22, DH,NMP	May 12,2 DH
Ovenbird	May 5,1, Shore Oaks	15, May 15, NMP	May 22,1 Oak
N Waterthrush	Apr 18,1 Oak	6, May 19, SE Onon Co	—
Mourning	May 13,1, HIGMA	4, May 27, DH to Oswego	May 31,1, Oak
Yellowthroat	May 6,1 Pompey	23, May 13, Port Byron	May 30,1, Oak
Hooded	May 7,1, Fish Gulf	6, May 27, LOL	—
Wilson's	May 12,1, NMP	3, May 27, LOL	May 31,1 Oak
		3, May 29, Oak	
Canada	May 10,4, Whiskey Hollow	9, May 27, DH to Oswego	Jun 1,1, Oak
Redstart	May 3,1, Mexico Pt	35, May 15 DH, NMP	Jun 1,1, Oak



## REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

LEE B. CHAMBERLAINE

April and May can be characterized as cool, rainy and overcast with snow falling as late as May 18 in Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties (5 to 6 inches). Some nice sunny days did occur in April notably the four day period April 18 thru 21 and the latter half of May was an improvement from the first part. Rain fell 20 days in the month of May for a total of 4.24 inches, an increase of 0.67 of an inch as compared to May 1972.

Noteworthy observations for the spring were Glossy Ibis, Gadwall, Goshawk nest, Glaucous Gull and Short-eared Owl. Among the vireos and warblers unusual observations were Philadelphia Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler and Pine Warbler.

Pine Siskins and a Grasshopper Sparrow round out the Blackbirds thru Sparrows to account for a rather successful spring migration of unusual observations.

**LOONS—DUCKS:** Common Loon: 1 May 25 Wilson Hill Wildlife Management Area (WHWMA). Horned Grebe: 1 April 14. Pied-billed Grebe: 1 April 27. Great Blue Heron: 1 April 3. Green Heron: May 4. Black-Crowned Night Heron: 2 April 14, Pillar Point (Leone); early. American Bittern: April 14 **GLOSSY IBIS:** 1 May 11 Perch River Wildlife Management Area (PRWMA) (Mosenteen). Canada Goose: 300 goslings produced latter half of May PRWMA: Snow Goose: 1 adult April 14 PRWMA (Leone). Gadwall: 2 April 1 WHWMA (VanRiet); 2 May 19 PRWMA (Leone); unsuccessful nesting found May 18 PRWMA (Mosenteen). Pintail: April 1. Green-winged Teal: 2 April 8. Blue-winged Teal: May 5. American Widgeon 24 April 1 WHWMA. Shoveler: April 14 to May 19 PRWMA; unsuccessful nest discovered May 18 PRWMA (Mosenteen). Wood Duck: April 24. Redhead: 4 May 1 WHWMA (Van Riet). Ring-necked Duck: 4 April 1 WHWMA (Van Riet). Ring-necked Duck: 4 April 1 WHWMA (VanRiet). Lesser Scaup: May 19. Common Goldeneye: April 1. Buffiehead: April 1. Hooded Merganser: April 24, Common Merganser 44 May 4; still around May 25 WHWMA.

**HAWKS—OWLS:** Turkey Vulture: 1 May 10 on ground near Adams; 8 in tree May 18 PRWMA (Mosenteen). Goshawk 2 May 26 nesting Wellesley Island (Leone). Red-shouldered Hawk: May 25. Rough-legged Hawk: April 24 late. Bald Eagle: 1 May 7 Rodman. Marsh Hawk: April 1. Osprey: 5 May 4 Castorland Bridge on Black River (Buffington). Gray Partridge: 1 May 6; 2 May 15; numbers still low from previous years. Virginia Rail: May 5. Sora: 1 May 26 PRWMA (Leone); 1 May 28 Eldorado (Leone).

Common Gallinule: 2 May 5. Ruddy Turnstone: May 30. Common Snipe: April 7. Upland Plover: May 18. Solitary Sandpiper: May 5. Greater Yellowlegs: April 24. Least Sandpiper: 1 May 25 St. Lawrence River (Allen).

**GLAUCOUS GULL:** 2 immatures April 3 Robert Moses State Park and Power Dam (RM) (VanRiet). Great Black-backed Gull: 3 April 1 WHWMA; 1 May 25 RM (VanRiet). Ring-billed Gull: April 28 in numbers on farm land Henderson area. Bonaparte's Gull: 8 May 25 WHWMA (VanRiet). Common Tern: May 20. Black Tern: May 6. Black-billed Cuckoo: May 26. Screech Owl: 1 May 23 Brookside Cemetery Watertown (Leone). **SHORT-EARED OWLS** 2 April 7 Three Mile Point (Leone); 1 May 25 WHWMA (VanRiet) very late.

**GOATSUCKERS—SHRIKES:** Whip-poor-will: first noted in mid-May. Night-hawk: May 23. Chimney Swift: May 3 early considering cool weather. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: May 13 Massena. Belted Kingfisher: April 14. Yellow-shafted Flicker: April 8. Pileated Woodpecker: 1 April 7 RM; 2 April 14

PRWMA; 1 April 14 Lorraine; seem to becoming more common. Red-headed Woodpecker: 1 May 12; 4 May 22 Henderson area (Chamberlaine); tend to concentrate along Little Stony Creek because of large numbers of dead elm. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: May 25. Eastern Kingbird: May 9. Great Crested Flycatcher: May 13. Eastern Phoebe: April 15. Traill's Flycatcher: May 23. Least Flycatcher: May 12. Eastern Wool Pewee: May 4 early (Leone). Tree Swallow: April 7. Rough-winged Swallow: 25 May 5 (Clinch). Barn Swallow: May 1. Cliff Swallow: May 6 Purple Martin: April 22. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6 April 8. Brown Creeper: 1 April 1; many (20+) April 17 Tug Hill Wildlife Management Area (THWMA). House Wren: May 5. Winter Wren: 1 April 17 THWMA (Chamberlaine). Catbird: May 5. Brown Thrasher: May 5. Wood Thrush: May 2 early. Hermit Thrush: April 24. Swainson's Thrush: May 26. Veery: May 15. Eastern Bluebird: 1 May 7; pair around nest box most of May. J. A. Blake Sanctuary (Clinch). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 19 April 8 Brasher Falls State Forest (BFSF) (VanRiet). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: April 20 to May 7 good flight Gouverneur (Belknap). Water Pipit: 1 May 25 St. Lawrence River (VanRiet).

VIREOS—WARBLERS: *PHILADELPHIA VIREO*: 2 May 15 Jefferson Community College (Leone). Warbling Vireo: May 15. Black-and White-Warbler: May 19. *GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER*: May 17 (Belknap) early; 2 males May 25 and 26 Watertown Sportsmen's Club, Leone). *TENNESSEE WARBLERS*: 1 May 21 Massena (VanRiet). Nashville Warbler: May 30. Yellow Warbler: May 10. Magnolia Warbler: May 15. *CAPE MAY WARBLER*: May 6; 2 (female and male) May 15 Jefferson Community College (Leone); 1 May 22 WHWMA (VanRiet). Black-throated Blue Warbler: May 19. Myrtle Warbler: April 23. Black-throated Green Warbler: May 19. Blackburnian Warbler: May 21. Chestnut-sided Warbler: May 15. Bay-breasted Warbler: May 15 Blackpoll Warbler: 2 May 25 WHWMA (VanRiet). *PINE WARBLER*: 1 May 25 WHWMA (VanRiet). Ovenbird: May 13. Northern Waterthrush: May 25. Yellowthroat: May 16. *WILSON'S WARBLER*: 1 May 23 (Leone). Canada Warbler: May 27. Redstart May 10.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Bobolink: May 13; number above previous few years: Baltimore Oriole: May 13. Rusty Blackbird: April 14. Scarlet Tanager: May 15. Cardinal: pair May 10 Henderson; 1 May 11 Watertown. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: May 20. Indigo Bunting: May 25. Evening Grosbeak: May 27 last date. Purple Finch: April 21. *PINE SISKIN*: 40 May 12 (Gordon); 6 May 23 RM (VanRiet); 12 May 31 Henderson (Chamberlaine) very late. Rufous-sided Towhee: April 21. Savannah Sparrow: May 22. *GRASSHOPPER SPARROW*: 1 or 2 May 23 Watertown (Leone). Vesper Sparrow: May 6. Tree Sparrow: April 19 last date seen. Chipping Sparrow: April 22. White-crowned Sparrow: April 30; in numbers May 11—May 13; last seen May 22. White-throated Sparrow: April 22. Swamp Sparrow: May 5.

Box 139, Henderson, New York 13650

## REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

THEODORE D. MACK

After an unusually mild March, the month of April brought us more normal weather. Total snowfall was 10½ inches and mean temperature was 41.7 degrees at Bob Kampf's Ray Brook observatory. May was wet with some rain on most days.

Observers: GTC—Greenleaf T. Chase; SF—S. Fland; MK—Dr. Marguerite Kingsbury; FL—Ferdinand LaFrance; TM—Ted Mack; WR—William Rutherford; LS—Dr. Lester Short; HS—H. Sincebaugh; JT—J. Tate; JWT—Joseph W. Taylor.

Abbreviations: BL—Bloomingtondale; BTP—Browns Tract Ponds area; FF—Franklin Falls; L—Lake; LP—Lake Placid; Mad—Madawaska Pond near PS; P—pond; PS—Paul Smiths; SL—Saranac Lake; Sant Pres—Santanoni Preserve near Newcomb; TL—Tupper Lake; Waw—Wawbeek area of Upper Saranac Lake.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 2 May 28 Lower St. Regis L near PS (TM); 1 May 31 Black P near PS (TM). Great Blue Heron: 2 migrating Apr 7 Rat P near PS (TM); 3 Apr 27 PS (WR); 3 May 4 BTP (LS); 1 May 6 Mad (TM); 1 May 31 Black P near PS (TM). American Bittern: 1 Apr 28 BTP (FL); 1 May 6 Mad (TM); 1 May 24 Upper St Regis L (TM). Canada Goose: 20 Apr 21 Waw (JT, SF, HS); last 8 Apr 25 Waw (JT, SF, HS). Mallard: 2 Apr 28 Sant Pres seemed out of place (TM). Black Duck: good numbers; 2 Apr 1 Barnum P near PS (TM); max 8 May 6 Mad (TM). Ring-necked Duck: max 15 Apr 19 TL (MK); 4 May 5 Jones P near PS (TM); 2 May 6 Mad (TM). Buffiehead: 5 Apr 19 Waw (JT, SF, HS). Hooded Merganser: 1 Apr 29 Lodo P near Newcomb (TM); 1 May 28 Bear P near PS (TM). Common Merganser: widely reported.

HAWKS—OWLS: Goshawk: 1 Apr 19-25 Waw (JT, SF, HS); 1 May 28 LP (JWT). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1 Apr 18 North Hudson (TM). Red-tailed Hawk: pair on territory May 27 Rich Lake near Newcomb (TM). Red-shouldered Hawk: 1 Apr 23 Waw (JT, SF). Broad-winged Hawk: 2 Apr 26 BTP (LS); 2 Apr 28 Sant Pres (TM); 1 May 13 TL (TM); 2 May 29 PS (TM). Golden Eagle: 1 Apr 22 Waw (JT, SF, HS) no details, 2 last week of May Hamilton County (GTC). Bald Eagle: 1 early Apr Ausable River at LP (Dan Eldridge); 1 traveling high May 20 PS (WR). Osprey: 1 May 1 BTP (LS); 1 May 6 Mad (TM); 2 May 7 Jones P near PS (TM) 1 May 28 Osgood P Near PS (WR). Sparrow Hawk: 1 Apr 17 SL (MK); 2 May 3 BTP (LS). Spruce Grouse: 3 females May 6 Mad (TM). Ruffed Grouse: widely reported. Virginia Rail: 1 May 6 Brandon Road near PS (TM); this species is unusual for most of our area. Killdeer: 2 late May PS (TM). American Woodcock: 1 Apr 6 PS (Catherine Mack); 1 Apr 8 Bl (TM); 1 Apr 19-25 Waw (JT, SF, HS); 1 May 2 BTP (LS). Common Snipe: 1 Apr 17 PS (TM); 2 May 12 TL (TM); 1 May 27 Fish Creek (James Fort). Spotted Sandpiper: 1 May 26 Rich Lake near Newcomb (TM); 1 May 26 LP (JWT). Ring-billed Gull: max 35 Apr 21 Waw (JT, SF, HS). Mourning Dove: 1 Apr 26 Waw (JT, SF). Great Horned Owl: 1 May 16 FF (TM). Barred Owl 1 May 16 FF (TM). Saw-whet Owl: 3 May 16 FF (TM).

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: Whip-poor-will: not reported. Common Night-hawk: only report 60 in one flock migrating May 16 FF (TM). Chimney Swift: several reports; 6 pair May 29 Barnum P near PS (TM). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 May 24 Bl (TM); 1 May 26 SL (MK). Belted Kingfisher: most gravel pits have a pair. Pileated Woodpecker: a day in the field should turn up at least one pair in most suitable areas. Red-headed Woodpecker: a rare bird for this region; 1 May SL (Mrs. Jacques DeMattos); 1 May 21 PS (Dr. Fred Hunt). Downy Woodpecker: max 15 Apr 19 Waw (JT, SF, HS). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 3 including a pair digging a nest Apr 25-May 4 BTP (LS). Northern Three-toed Woodpecker: 3 Apr 25-May 4 BTP (LS). Eastern Kingbird: 1 May 6 Brandon Road near PS (TM). Great Crested Flycatcher: unusually common this year. Tree Swallow: first 1 Apr 19 TL (MK). Cliff Swallow: good numbers. Common Raven: Two young raised in Essex County of which one

is very naive about approaching humans; last week of May (GTC). Gray Jay: 1 May BTP (LS). Blue Jay: max 30 Apr 26 Waw (JT,SF,HS). Black-capped Chickadee: max 50 Apr 23 Waw (JT,SF,HS). Boreal Chickadee: 2 May 6 Mad (TM). Brown Creeper: widely reported; 3 singing Apr 8 Osgood River near PS (TM); max 5 Apr 28 Sant Pres (TM). Winter Wren: very common; first 1 Apr 7 Polliwog P. near PS (TM); 1 Apr 8 Osgood River near PS (TM); max 15 May 29 LP (JWT). Catbird: 1 Apr 21 Waw (JT,SF,HS). Robin: 2 Apr 11 SL (MK); max 30 Apr 22 Waw (JT,SF,HS). Wood Thrush: 2 May 16 FF (TM); 2 May 16 SL (MK). Hermit Thrush: 3 Apr 28 BTP (FL); 4 May 6 Mad (TM). Swainson's Thrush: very hard to find — Joe Taylor heard one in a week at LP. Veery: fair numbers. Eastern Bluebird: 1 May 24 BI (Catherine Mack). Both kinglets present in good numbers.

VIREOS—WARBLERS: Solitary Vireo: first Apr 30 BTP (LS); 2 May 12 Heart L. (MK). Red-eyed Vireo: first 1 May 10 PS (TM); 2 May 11 PS (TM). Warbling Vireo: 1 transient middle of May PS (TM). Black-and-white Warbler: 4 May 6 Mad (TM). Nashville Warbler: 2 May 6 Mad (TM); 2 May 12 Heart Lake (MK). Parula Warbler: 1 May 2 BTP (LS); 1 May 26 LP (JWT). Cape May Warbler: a rare bird for this region; 1 May 20 SL (Dirck and Mary Benson). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: numbers low; max 10 May 6 Mad (TM). Black-throated Green Warbler: usually a fairly common bird but very scarce this period. Pine Warbler: 1 Apr 25 Waw (JT,SF,HS); not a bird one would expect here. Palm Warbler: 1 Apr 26 BTP (LS). Northern Waterthrush: good numbers. Canada Warbler: good numbers.

BLACKBIRDS—SPARROWS: Eastern Meadowlark: max 13 Apr 24 Waw (JT,SF,HS); 4 May 2 BTP in bog (LS). Northern (Baltimore) Oriole: reported from PS to Plattsburgh. Rusty Blackbird: first 1 Apr 1 Barnum P near PS (TM); 3 Apr 28 BTP (FL). Common Grackle: max 200 Apr 24 Waw (JT,SF,HS). Brown-headed Cowbird: more than usual in most areas. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: numbers definitely down from last year in PS area but high in at least 2 other areas. Purple Finch: plentiful. Pine Siskin: very common Apr and May; max 150 Apr 26 Waw (JT,SF,HS); 140 in one flock Apr 24 Goodnow Flow near Newcomb (TM). Red Crossbill: 8 Apr 22 Waw (JT,SF,HS); several Apr 25 BTP (LS); 6 Apr 26 PS (TM). Rufous-sided Towhee: 1 Apr 24 Waw (JT,SF,HS); 1 May 25 LP (JWT). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: max 200 Apr 24 Waw (JT,SF,HS). Chipping Sparrow: first 1 Apr 21 Waw (T,SF,HS); 20 in one flock Apr 26 PS (TM). Field Sparrow: 1 Apr 28 Sant Press (TM); 3 May 6 Mad (TM). White-crowned Sparrow: 1 May 6 Mad (TM); 1 May 20 SL (MK). White-throated Sparrow: numbers down in many areas.

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## REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

Where two years ago the season seemed about two weeks behind, this year the season seemed about two weeks ahead. Many trees were in full leaf by the first of May due to the mild weather of March and abundant water thru April. Insect populations seemed up, but warblers and other migrants were not present to avail themselves of them. Most arrived on time. After a March which was remarkably warm and without snow, April was normal to cool and with plenty of rain. May



was also cool with abundant rain. Foliage made observations difficult, but more birders in the field made up for this adversity.

No one reported a spring migration of any spectacular proportions. It would appear for the most part to be quite normal. Most species appeared on time even though they were 2 weeks behind the foliage. Bob Deed theorized that cold weather to the south held most migrants back. The Carolinas experienced snow much later than we did here in southern New York. He believes that there was no reason for them to leave Florida, and the cool May that we experienced further held them back. Only two major warbler movements were noted: the first on May 2 and the last (and larger) May 11. The shadow of the latter was felt on May 12 when most of the clubs of the area had their Big Day or Census. Unfortunately at least half of the day was eliminated due to heavy rain and thunder storms.

Area Compilers: John C. Orth; Ed and Lana Mills; William Howe; Fred Hough; Mabel Little; Martin Borko; Al Merritt; Robert F. Deed; Eleanor Pink; Otis Waterman.

Observers cited: A,MB—Arlene and Martin Borko; RFD—Robert F. Deed; DF—Davis Finch; AJ—Alice Jones; A,BM—Al and Barbara Merritt; JCO—John C. Orth; EP—Eleanor Pink; ES—Eric Single; W.TS—William and Trixie Strauss; EDT—E. D. Treacy.

Abbreviations: First four letters of each county; MCC—Mearns Bird Club Census; WCC—Waterman Bird Club Census( both May 12); WBC—Waterman Bird Club.

LOONS—DUCKS: Common Loon: 1 each on MCC and WCC; 4 May 28 Croton Pt. Red-throated Loon; 4 Hudson R WCC. Double-crested Cormorant: more spring reports than usual, 1 on Rockland Audubon Census May 12; 5 Hudson R off Crugers Is WCC; 1 May 13 Port Ewen (Dr. Robert Pyle). Great Blue Heron: 1 Valley Cottage Apr 1, early; 19 flying in formation over L DeForest Apr 7 (ES); 10 Apr 5 Tamarack Sw. Cattle Egret: more than usual, 1 May 11 Rockland L Nature Center, inc to 2 May 16; another, possibly the same bird, across the Hudson R at Croton Pt May 28-29, observed there also about a week earlier; 2 early May near Kripplebush; max 9 May 5 Pleasant Valley. Common Egret: 1 May 20 Dutchess Hill; another over south Spring Valley Apr 21, very early. Snowy Egret: 1 MCC; 3 May 20 Iona Is (EDT). Black-crowned Night Heron: 3 May 28 Cronton Pt. GLOSSY IBIS: 1 Apr 24 west of Newburgh (A,MB). Mute Swan: 1 pr Iona Is did not nest successfully; another pr at Bashakill had not produced young by the end of period. Canada Goose: broods small, probably high mortality. Brant: more than 300 flying west over Newburgh on the rainy morning of May 26; another 500 over Nyack that evening headed ne (RFD); 1 May 27 on water off Croton Pt; 2 flocks at dusk on May 31 along Hudson in Dutch, 500+ (EP). Snow Goose: sev good flights reported; max 2,820 Apr 7 over Hook Mt, Rock (ES). Blue Goose: 1 Apr 7 over Hook Mt, Rock (ES). Pintail: always uncommon in spring; 2 Apr 3-14 Pocantico Res; 1 Apr 17 Croton Pt; 6 Apr 7 Crugers Is (WBC). Shoveler: only 3; 3 Apr 23; 1 WCC. Lesser Scaup: 1 late bird May 12 on Hudson at Cornwall (L. VanEtten). White-wing Scoter: only reports. 2 Apr 28 Kiamesha L; 2 May 28 Croton Pt. Common Merganser: 1 MCC on Hudson off Cornwall; 1 WCC on Hudson off Crugers Is. (late). Red-breasted Merganser: 1 WCC on Hudson off Crugers Is; 2 May 28 Croton Pt.

HAWKS—OWLS: The Hook Mt Hawk Watch was manned a total of 15 days from Mar 21-Apr 30. Their results are listed below.

The observers were Ed & Lana Mills, John Rex, Peter Both, Walter Friton, and Eric Single.



Goshawk .....	10	3	3/24,4/7
Sharp-shinned .....	55	12	4/7
Coopers .....	1	1	4/14
Red-tailed .....	52	20	3/24
Red-shouldered .....	1	1	4/7
Broad-winged .....	525	254	4/30
Rough-legged .....	1	1	4/21
Marsh .....	6	2	4/7
Osprey .....	20	6	4/21
Pigeon .....	3	2	4/14
Sparrow .....	57	7	4/30
Unident .....	6		
	737		

Goshawk: 1 WCC, Stissing, second time for that count; 1 imm May 21 Wawarsing (JCO). Red-tailed Hawk: 22 WCC was unusually high. Red-shouldered Hawk: 3 WCC was very unusual. Broad-winged Hawk: JCO reports numbers down in Bear Mt Park; would appear the same in Dutch with only 1 reported on WCC; RFD observed 6 circling mt south of Bashakill on late date of May 31, they moved north-east. Bald Eagle: 1 Apr 18-23 West Park. Ulst; 1 Apr 22 and again May 19 Bashakill; 1 WCC was the first on that count since 1952. *PIGEON HAWK*: 1 Apr 8 Concord Golf Course, Sull (Ken Niven). *CHUKAR*: 2 Apr 21 Hamptonburgh (A,BM). Bobwhite: only reports Dutch, no more than 2 or 3 at a time thru Apr and May. Semipalmated Plover: 1 May 26; 2 May 27 Croton Pt. Killdeer: max 50 WCC. Black-bellied Plover: 1 May 27; 1 May 28; 3 May 29 Croton Pt. Woodcock: 26 on WCC, usual avg 6. Spotted Sandpiper: first Apr 15; 60 on WCC, usual avg 30. Solitary Sandpiper: 1 early date of Apr 17 Piermont Pier (ES). Pectoral Sandpiper: only report 1 May 10 Fallkill Park, Dutch (AJ). Least Sandpiper: a few reports; of interest is 2 on New Platz flats (no date), first record for Ulst Co. Dunlin: 56 May 28 Croton Pt; 7 same place May 29. Short-billed Dowitcher: 130 May 27 Croton Pt; 104 there May 28. *GLAUCOUS GULL*: 1 Apr 3 Rockland I (Walter Friton). Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Apr 23 Crugers Is; 1 Apr 28 Kiamasha L. Common Tern: 1 WCC Crugers Is, second time for that count, last in 1949; 3 May 28 Croton Pt. Black Tern: 1 and 2 observed regularly from May 8-19 at Bashakill (Iris Dean). Mourning Dove: continues in excellent numbers. *MONK PARAKEET*: only report 1 May 4 Pearl River (Emily Paulson). Barn Owl: 1 Mar 16 New Paltz; another at Millbrook Boys School on WCC, first since 1944. Screech Owl: sev reports of nesting, nothing unusual.

*GOATSUCKERS-STARLING*: Common Nighthawk: more migrants than usual; excellent movement on May 18, 28-30; 15 May 29 over S. Nyack; 15 May 30 Pleasant Valley. Red-bellied Woodpecker: numbers continue from last report; scattered thru region, most numerous in Rock and Dutch; 3 May 30 Hyde Park, one of these carrying food, but nest not found. Eastern Kingbird: numbers down; only 21 on WCC with 14 of these in south Dutch. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: only 1 May 16 Pond Gut Dutch (WBC). Traill's Flycatcher: 3 May 27-29 Croton Pt; single birds from sev other locations. Least Flycatcher: very few esp east of the Hudson. Olive-sided Flycatcher: very few; 1 May 22 and 30 Weyant's Pd; 1 May 22 Roosevelt Estate, Hyde Park; 1 May 31 Pleasant Valley. Tree Swallow: unusually low numbers for this species; many found dead in nest boxes in Dutch. Bank Swallow: arr Apr 22 at Croton Pt. Rough-winged Swallow: arr Apr 15 at Westmorland Sanct. Blue Jay: usual large flights esp May 13. Fish Crow: thru Apr at Vassar Coll and

Vassar Hosp and as many as 8 along Hudson in Dutch; 4 thru late May at Croton Pt; 1 Cornwall May 11. Red-breasted Nuthatch: better than usual, persisted thru southern parts thru end of May. House Wren: 1 Apr 19 was early. Long-billed Marsh Wren: numerous at Croton Pt with 12 singing on May 28. Mockingbird: an unusual 65 on WCC, which avg 20. Wood Thrush: first Apr 25, Monticello normal numbers. Swainson's Thrush: only 6 on WCC, numbers seem normal elsewhere. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 1 May 10 Bashakill. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: numbers normal, one late singing bird May 30 at Weyants Pd. Cedar Waxwing: numbers good in sporadic flocks.

**VIREOS-WARBLERS:** Most dates and numbers were normal. Only exceptions are listed here. White-eyed Vireo: only report 1 May 25 Amenia (WTS). Solitary Vireo: very few, most 3rd week of Apr, first Apr 23. Philadelphia Vireo: only 3 reports, first May 12 Grahamsville; another May 21 near Poughkeepsie, a third May 25 Bashakill. Golden-winged Warbler: 20 on WCC. Blue-winged Warbler: 90 on WCC, 2 early date of Apr 15 at L Sebago. Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler: 1 late date of May 27 Westmorland Sanct. Cerulean Warbler: at usual nesting locations but in very poor numbers. Blackburnian Warbler: only 4 on WCC, normal elsewhere. **PINE WARBLER:** 3 MCC near Highland Res, Middletown, unconfirmed report in same location and time last year, nesting should be investigated (J. Tramontano, J. Tripp). Prairie Warbler: 45 on WCC is unusually high. Northern Waterthrush: first Apr 25, 2 Tamarack Sw. Louisiana Waterthrush: 1 Apr 15 Pond Gut. Mourning Warbler: 1 May 20 Bashakill; 1 singing from 6:00 a.m. — 6:45 a.m. May 22 along Wappingers Cr, Pleasant Valley (EP). Wilson's Warbler: normal thru most of region except Dutch where only reports were 8 on WCC.

**BLACKBIRDS-SPARROWS:** Bobolink: excellent numbers thru region. Orchard Oriole: usual few. Cardinal: 90 on WCC where avg is usually 50. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 150 on WCC, avg usually 80. Indigo Bunting: generally late and few. Dickcissel: one of last report remained at Chester thru mid-Apr. Evening Grosbeak: good numbers well into May, last May 21. Pine Grosbeak: unusual flock of about 25 at L Mohonk May 10 (a very late date). Red Crossbill: scattered reports thru most of region; small flocks of 2 or 3 except in Middletown where J. Tramontano had about 12-15 at his feeder (thistle seed) thru much of Apr to mid-May. Grasshopper Sparrow: 2 unusually early date of May 2 in Dutch (AJ). Tree Sparrow: 1 May 7 East Park (Tom Gilbert); 4 on WCC, 3 Cary Arboretum (Forest Romero) and another same date and location (W,TS), second time on that count, last in 1963. White-throated Sparrow: good numbers, last migrant May 30 Weyants Pd, singing. Fox Sparrow: unusually scarce, unreported from most areas; 1 very late date of May 13 Castle Pt. (Forest and Aline Romero). Lincoln Sparrow: only reports 1 Apr 15 Bashakill (A,BM) and another Apr 29 at feeder in Poughkeepsie (Otis Waterman); another month of Apr at Amenia (W,TS).

Summer reports due Sept 1

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS and LEE MORGAN

### Spring Pelagic Trips

It would be an understatement to say that there has been an upsurge of interest in pelagic birding these past few years. Jaded landlubbing birders have taken drama-mine to search for new avifaunal thrills exploring the oceanic unknown. This spring

groups of birders paid \$20 apiece to suffer through 24 hours by boat to Hudson Canyon and back. This area is located approximately 80 miles east of Barnegat Inlet, New Jersey. It lies along the 100 fathom line, the edge of the Continental Shelf. Several commercial sport fishing boats visit the area on a weekly basis, lured by large catches of Tilefish that inhabit the narrow continental slope zone. What attracts the birders is quite obvious from the reports below. In addition, the earliest visit ever was made to Cox's Ledge, 40 miles ESE of Montauk Point. The list of still another pelagic trip taken off Jones Beach stands in startling testimony to the more constant productivity of the other areas.

Cox's Ledge, May .6: 2 Common Loons, 19 Sooty Shearwaters, 60 Wilson's Petrels, 4 Gannets, 4 Black-bellied Plovers, 50 Red and 70 Northern Phalaropes, 10 Great Black-backed Gulls and 20 Common Terns (JA, TD, PL, RS, B. HINES, R. Ferren, G. Rose, K. Kelley et al).

Hudson Canyon, May 27: 50 Sooty and 175 Greater Shearwaters, 17 Leach's and 2000+ Wilson's Petrels, 1 Gannet, 75 Red and 10 Northern Phalaropes, 18 Pomarine and 4 Parasitic Jaegers, 2 unidentified jaegers, 3 Herring Gulls, 7 unidentified terns, 1 Barn Swallow, 1 unidentified thrush and 1 Canada Warbler (Urn Ornith. Club, R. Kane, B. Smith, A. Keith et al).

20-25 miles off Jones Beach, June 10: 1 Sooty and 1 Greater Shearwater, and 100+ Wilson's Petrels (H. Wellander et al).

Hudson Canyon, June 17: 8 Sooty and 844 Greater Shearwaters, 166 unidentified shearwaters 2 Leach's and 1382 Wilson's Petrels and 1 Parasitic Jaeger (Bob Smith et al).

The more notable rarities included in this report are Purple Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt, 2 Chuck-Will's-widows, 2 Swainson's Warblers and Boat-tailed Grackle. New arrival dates were recorded for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Indigo Bunting.

Observers Frequently Cited: JA—Jim Ash; WB—Wilma Baumann; PB—Paul Buckley; TD—Thomas Davis; DF—Darrel Ford; RG—Robert Giffen; HH—Helen Hirschbein; PL—Paul Lehman; EL—Emmanuel Levine; RP—Roger Pasquier; DP—Dennis Puleston; LS—Lore Schore; RS—Robert Smart; CW—Cornelius Ward.

Abbreviations: JBWR—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; FIL—Fire Island Light.

LOONS—DUCKS: Cattle Egret: 2 May 20 Central Pk (D. Edwards, K. Berlin)—first Park record. Canada Goose: "a very large population on Gardiner's Island, at least 300 nesting pairs estimated." (DP). Gadwall: "this is now the commonest breeding duck on Gardiner's Island, I estimate close to 100 pairs." (DP). Canvasback: May 27 Mecox Bay (TD, RS, PL)—very late, summering? Harlequin Duck: male, Apr 20 Jones Inlet (PB)—very late.

HAWKS—OWLS: Osprey: "this bird is still having much lack of reproductive success. On the mainland very few viable nests. On Gardiner's Island, 33 active nests this year, but some chick and egg disappearance already. I will have a better idea of the number of fledged young by early July, but it does not look promising at this juncture, although there should be more than the disastously low total of 5 young from 34 active nests last year. I believe much of the chick mortality last year resulted from Hurricane Agnes." (DP). American Kestrel: in urban Manhattan a pair nested near Wooster and Houston Streets. (S. Drennan), in suburban Queens a pair nested atop an apartment house at 85th Road and 96th street. (TD), and on Suffolk County's barrier beach a pair nested at Fire Island Lighthouse (DF).

Black Rail: 2 or 3 birds were heard calling at 2200 on May 12 at Oak Beach marsh (TD, RS, PL, D. Finch). PURPLE GALLINULE: May 17 Cranberry Bog Nature Preserve, Riverhead (Eric Salzman). BLACK-NECKED STILT: Apr 20-25

JBWR (mob) — one or more reported on Long Island last year . . . we'll wait till next year before jumping to conclusions. Wilson's Phalarope: female, May 14 Dongan Hills, Staten Island (J. Tobin). Royal Tern: 2 May 28 JBWR (JA)—very early, seen following a storm. Mourning Dove: nest with one egg, Mar 13, Commack (RG)—very early; earlier local egg dates in recent years are probably a natural response to increase population pressures. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Apr 11 Commack (RG)—earliest Regional record.

GOATSUCKERS—STARLING: CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW: May 11–16 FIL (DF et al)—banded and photographed; injured bird found May 21 at Kennedy International Airport (A. Moorhouse)—died, specimen to American Museum where sexed as a female, the 10th and 11th State records respectively. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Apr 21 Greenwood Cemetery (fide TD) — very early. Great Crested Flycatcher: Apr 21 Hempstead Lake State Pk (EL) — extremely early. Acadian Flycatcher: singing bird May 4 Tackapausha Preserve (D. Lowe) — earliest Regional record.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Yellow-throated Vireo: 2 Apr 19 Hempstead Lake State Pk (EL) — earliest Regional record. Solitary Vireo: banded May 30 FIL (PB) — extremely late.

Prothonotary Warbler: 18 reports Apr 9 — June 2; early reports included 1 at Alley Pond Pk Apr 9–11 (WP, LS), 1 found dead at Lloyd Neck Apr 11 (A. McKay), and 1 at Mill Neck on Apr 15 (A. Bell); 12 birds were noted Apr 24 — May 4; late migrants were seen at Forest Pk on May 27 (JA), and at Belmont Lake State Pk on June 2 (R. Plunkett); this season's total more than doubles the previous high of 8 Prothonotaries in the spring of 1970. SWAINSON'S WARBLER: May 11 Central Pk (Hugh McGuiness, Peter Polshek, D. Finch, J. Bull, R. Arbib, TD et al); another, banded, May 20 Tobay Sanctuary (A. Lauro) — photographed by PB. More complete details of these 3rd and 4th State records will hopefully be forthcoming.

Worm-eating Warbler: Apr 15–21 Lawrence (HH, CW) — very early. "Lawrence's Warbler": May 3 — through period, Yaphank (DP et al) — "on territory, presumably the same bird as present here last spring." Orange-crowned Warbler: banded May 2–4 FIL (R. Paxton et al); May 12 Central Pk (RP et al) — a very rare *spring* migrant. Cape May Warbler: Apr 22 Jones Beach State Pk (EL, A. Lauro) — earliest Regional record. Cerulean Warbler: "a singing male on territory during May in mature woodland at Yaphank" (DP) — this species is not known to breed on Long Island. Yellow-throated Warbler: May 8 Clark Sanctuary (LS) — only report. Bay-breasted Warbler: male Apr 29–30 Alley Pond Pk (WB, LS, J. Kane) — earliest Regional record. Northern Waterthrush: Apr 17 Hempstead Lake State Pk (EL) — very early. Kentucky Warbler: 3 reports . . . May 11–12 Alley Pond Pk (M. Gochfeld et al); May 12 JBWR (B. Spencer); May 19 Bronx Pk (E. Maguire). Hooded Warbler: male Apr 5 JBWR (S. Elliot) — earliest Regional record.

BLACKBIRDS — SPARROWS: Boat-tailed Grackle: male, May 12 Gilgo Beach (F. Heath) — seen from a speeding car, the bird's silhouette caused the observer to stop, thinking it might be a magpie! Summer Tanager: 10 individuals reported . . . male Apr 15 Patchogue (J. A. Black); sub-adult male Apr 28 FIL (DF) — banded; male May 5 Elmont (R. Berlinger); female May 5 Alley Pond Pk (A. Bell, O. Dunning); May 6 College Pt (Kotch); May 8 Forest Pk (Latils); male May 19 Forest Pk (mob); sub-adult male Jun 2 Belmont Lake State Pk (P. Post, TD et al) — extremely late.

Blue Grosbeak: 5 individuals reported . . . male Apr 15–21 JBWR (mob); male Apr 18 Gilgo Beach (R. Paxton); female Apr 29 FIL (DF) — banded; female May 13 Mamaroneck (R. Arbib et al); female May 19 Alley Pond Pk (mob). Indigo Bunting: male Apr 10–12 Brightwaters (B. Wollcoff, F. File, J. Smith) — at feeder, ties earliest Regional record. Dickcissel: singing male May 27 Ft Hamilton, Bklyn (Mrs. Orpen); May 30 FIL (PB) — Dickcissels were unreported as spring migrants



prior to 1962, including the above reports, there are now 9 spring records scattered through the month of May to as late as the 30th. White-throated Sparrow: max 2000 May 1 Jones - Captree (EL) - highest Regional count.

Note; Please send fall reports by Dec 8.

Thomas H. Davis, 9446 85th Road, Woodhaven, New York 11421.

Lee Morgan, 4 Windsor Lane, East Northport, New York 11731.

## WINTER REPORTS RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR MAY ISSUE

### REGION 9 — DELAWARE-HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

This had to be one of the mildest winters on record. Snowfall was far below normal with less than two inches reported from most areas in Dec., and no really big storms after that. What Dec. lacked in snow it made up for in rain; more than twice the normal. Temperatures were moderate and rarely approached the zero mark anywhere in the region. The Hudson R. froze late, and was free of ice by the first week of March.

The lack of ice and snow cover failed to concentrate many species, giving one the impression of lower numbers. A mild autumn and early winter made many of our migrants linger longer than usual and unprecedented numbers of some species remained through the season: eg. Ring-necked Duck, Green-winged Teal, Vulture, Virginia Rail, Woodcock, Sapsucker, Fish Crow, Mimids, Myrtle Warbler, Towhee.

Northern finches varied strangely. Evening and Pine Grosbeaks were in excellent numbers early, and good thru the rest of the season. Only 1 or 2 Redpolls were reported and they are doubtful. Few White-winged Crossbills were reported but a good number of Red were scattered thru theregion. Pine Siskin were reported good in some areas, but absent for the season in others. Shrikes put on the best show yet with unprecedented numbers of both species. Usually one or two are considered good.

Corrigendum: *Kingbird* XXIII, No. 1, Jan. 1973, Region report p. 65 "Snow Goose: ... 5000 Oct 30 Pok (AJ)" should read "... 550 Oct 30 Pok (AJ)".

Abbreviations: mob-many observers; Dutch-Dutchess Co.; Oran-Orange Co.; Rock-Rockland Co.; Sull-Sullivan Co.; Ulst-Ulster Co.; West-Westchester Co.; WBC-Waterman Bird Club; Pok-Poughkeepsie.

Observers cited: DF-Davis Finch; WH-William Howe; AJ-Alice Jones; JMK-Jim and Mary Key; HM-Helen Manson; A,BM-Al and Barbara Merritt; JCO-John C. Orth; B,TS-Bill and Trixie Strauss; JT-Dr. John Tramontano; MVW-Marion Van-Wagner; OW-Otis Waterman.

LOONS-DUCKS: Loon: None reported. Horned Grebe: 2 Dec 6 near Verbank, Dutch were very late. No spring migrants reported thru end of period. Pied-billed Grebe: Good numbers thru Jan. 5 Rock L. Jan 1; 3 Katonah Jan 24. **DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT**: 1 Hudson R. (PCC), no details. Great Blue Heron: RCC for 4th time in 26 counts; 10 returned Tamarack Swamp by Mar 24; earliest



Mar 6 Tamarack Swamp. Mute Swan: Sev. in north part of region; 1 Jan 16 at Bashakill, 2 there by end of period; 1 Dec 19-23 Vincent L; Dutch WC had 26; 19 of them in Rock. Canada Goose: excellent fall flights continued into winter; 300 over Hook Mt. Dec 14; more than 800 in Dutch dur Mar. Snow Goose: 1 Dec 4; 10 Dec 31 on Dutch; 1 Jan 4 Tarrytown; 2 Mar 23 Amenia. Gadwall: 5 dur Dec in Dutch; 3 on PCC were new to count. Pintail: always uncommon; 3 Mar 12 Goshen; 1 WC Beacon remained thru Feb; 2 Mar 13 Vanderburgh Cove; 2 Mar 14 Hunn's L; 3 Mar 18-24 Crugers Is. Green-winged Teal: 1 Feb 5 Iona Is; 14 Mar 23 Dover; 15 Mar 20 Smithfield; 4 Mar 24 Crugers Is; only 3 on WC; 1 Rock and 2 Oran. Blue-winged Teal: 4 Mar 24 Crugers Is. Am Widgeon: 22 Mar 14 Goshen; 2 Mar 13 Millbrook; 4 Mar 13 Kay's Pd; 12 other reports from Dutch, only 4 on Hudson. Wood Duck: only 1 reported from Putn on WC; first migrant Mar 7 Wappingers L. 27 others reported from Dutch by end of Mar. Redhead: always rare; 1 or 2 birds regularly on Cristie Pd, Clove Valley, Dutch thru period. Ring-necked Duck: wintered farther north than usual; reported from Dutch dur Dec and Jan; first migrants Mar 19 L Tiorati; 101 on WC is up from 34 of last year. Canvasback: not numerous but regular on Hudson thru period; more than 500 Esopus Light Mar 11-18; over 100 there and at Crugers Mar 24. Scaup: unusually low; 4 on WC. Common Goldeneye: numbers down, only 1 on RCC. Oldsquaw: 1 Dec 14 Crugers Is; 1 Rondout Res dur Jan. (AJ, HM) Hooded Merganser: 1 thru Dec at Rock L; 14 Katonah Jan 24 (WH); 1 Dec 15 Crugers Is; 2 Mar 23 Amenia; usual good numbers of Mar failed to materialize. Common Merganser: max 74 Feb 11 Rondout Res; numbers generally low; only 2 on RCC. Red-breasted Merganser: unreported.

**HAWKS - OWLS:** WBC reports 8 species of hawks dur Jan. Turkey Vulture: absent from Region only dur Jan; 1 Dec 9 Harlem Valley- 1 Feb 23 Pawling; another Feb 24 & 28 Harlem Valley; in very good numbers by second week of Mar. Goshawk: unusual invasion in Dutch; 1 Dec 10 & 30 Stissing; 2 Dec 13 near Christie Pd; 1 Dec 23 Jug Hill; 2 on WCC; an unusual event of one pursuing **BROAD-WINGED HAWK** near New City on RCC (Joe Weise). Sharp-shinned Hawk: only report 1 Jan 1 Clove Valley. Red-shouldered Hawk: any report worth noting; 1 Mar 27 Welch L. (JCO); 1 Jan 28 Pok (OW); 1 Mar 10 to end of period Hopewell Jct (DF); another pair Mar 20 Town of Washington, Dutch (JMK). **BROAD-WINGED HAWK:** (See Goshawk above). Rough-legged Hawk: numbers lower than usual; only 2 reports in Dec; 3 in Jan and 3 Feb. **GOLDEN EAGLE:** 1 Feb 15 Verbank (Dr. Robert Tillman). Bald Eagle: very few reported except in Sull where on Jan 14 Ken Niven and Marty Borko counted 14 ad and 7 imm at Rio, Mongaup and Rondout Reservoirs, birds were apparently concentrated by fish kills; Borko reports an Orange and Rockland Utility lineman found 28 earlier while flying an inspection tour of power lines; numbers slowly lessened thru Feb and were seen by mob; 12 ad and 5 imm were at Rondout Res Feb 4 (JT). Marsh Hawk: rare in winter; 1 Dec 6 Waterbury Hill, Dutch; 1 Jan 27 Amenia; 1 Mar 24 Thompson Pd. **PIGEON HAWK:** 1 Jan 27 Gretna Rd, Dutch (JMK), they report a good observation of the bird. Bobwhite: Dec 9 & 16 Stissing; reduced to 4 by Feb 25; 3 Mar 6 Hibernia. Pheasant; numbers on WCC down from high of 233 in 1962 to 21 this year; never that high in other parts of region. **CHUKAR:** Reported in Middletown at feeder and along Rt 82 in Dutch, undoubtedly released birds. Virginia Rail: 8 on PCC; 1 Dec 12 Harlem Valley, Dutch; 1 (dead) Jan 15 Standfordville. Coot; down drastically; only 2 in Dutch Mar 31. Killdeer: 3 wintered Croton Pt (WH). Woodcock: more than usual; 1 Brinton Brook Sanct Jan 1; 1 Jan 3 Dutch; 1 Feb 7 Oran; 3 on RCC, the third time in 26 counts. Lesser Yellowlegs: 1 Mar 28 in Dutch (MVW). **GLAUCOUS GULL:** 1 Feb 3 Hudson R off Dutch (DF). **LAUGHING GULL:** unprecedented record of 2 Dec 30 on Hudson R at Kingston, obs at close range at rest and in flight (Dr. Robert Pyle). Bonaparte's Gull: 4, first time on RCC, at Grassy Pt. Mourning Dove: ont high; WCC reports down to 303

from last years high of 614. Screech Owl: more than usual. Great Horned Owl: usual reports, never many. Snowy Owl: not a flight year; 1 Feb 25 Beacon (Beedy Serra). Barred Owl: JCO believes being crowded out of most areas by competing Great Horned; 1 chased by crows Jan 14 in Bear Mt Pk; sev Feb reports in Dutch and 3 Mar 29 near Pok (JMK). Short-eared Owl: only report 1 Dec 29 Malone Rd, Dutch (MVW).

GOATSUCKERS — STARLING: Belted Kingfisher: Fred Hough reports record numbers wintering in Ulst. Yellow-shafted Flicker: more than usual. Pileated Woodpecker: less than usual. Red-bellied Woodpecker: many reports; some birds remained locally thru season; RCC had 2; 1 Dec 14 Palisades; 1 Dec 17 Sneden's Landing; 1 Jan 12 New City; 1 north of Pok thru season; 1 Millbrook month of Feb; 1 Dec 27 Forest Glen; 1 Dec 10 Bard College. Red-headed Woodpecker: lower than usual but regular locally. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: several reports; 1 Dec 1 Cornwall (A.BM). 1 Pok Jan; 1 Moore's Mills Mar 17; (HM); 2 RCC first since 1963; 1 on JBCC. Phoebe: left late and arr early; 1 Dec 11 Suffern; 1 Dec 27 Dutch (B,TS); arr West Pt Mar 17 and Cornwall Mar 18; arr same dates in Dutch. Horned Lark: Probably in good numbers but missed due to lack of snow cover. Tree Swallow: 1 very early date of Mar 17 at Red Oaks Mill; reported several locations Mar 24, 26 & 28. Common Crow: WCC reported 2810 at roost north of Pok. Fish Crow: good winter numbers; 1 Forest Glen dur Dec, new for that area; 2 at Hudson R State Hosp late Jan; movement late Mar in Dutch, total 12 inc 6 Mar 21 Vassar Coll. Red-breasted Nuthatch: best numbers in years; reported from all areas thru period. Brown Creeper: best numbers in RCC ever, 23 reported. Winter Wren: 3 thru season at Croton Pt; usual singles reported through region elsewhere. Carolina Wren: good numbers made it thru season. Mockingbird: numbers cont high; 48 on RCC; 45 on WCC; first report on the latter count in 1960. Catbird: sev reports from Rock, Oran and Dutch. Brown Thrasher: wintered at Circleville & Middletown; 1 Dec 21 Wappingers reported again Jan. 28. Robin: More wintering birds than usual; big movement on Mar 15. Hermit Thrush: 1 Feb 2 Fort Montgomery; 1 Dec 29 Westmoreland Sanct, West; and 1 Jan 9 Pleasantville. Bluebird: exc in Dutch, Mr. and Mrs. Padraic French watched 7 at their feeder in New City Mar 18. Golden-crowned Kinglet: more than usual; in all areas. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1 Dec 10 Stissing; 1 Dec 27 Forest Glen, Dutch; 1 Jan 27 Skidmore Sanct; 1 Hyde Park Jan 8. Cedar Waxwing: almost unreported; 10 Jan 1; 200+ at Bard Coll same date. Shrikes: largest winter numbers of both species Northern Shrike: 1 Dec 24 Suffern; 1 Dec 26 Goshen; 1 Dec 13 Clove Valley; 1 Jan 22 Dutch; 1 Feb 4 Wappingers Falls; 1 Feb 27 Rossway Rd, Dutch; 1 Feb 18 Red Hook; 1 Mar 5 Ward Rd, Dutch; 1 Mar 7 Vassar Coll; 1 Mar 10 Mabbetsville; 1 Mar 27 Crugers Is. Loggerhead Shrike: 1 Bashakill Mar 25; 1 Jan 20 Walden; 1 JBCC; 1 Jan 20,21 Dutch; LMCC Blooming Grove.

VIREOS — SPARROWS: Myrtle Warbler: many more than usual. 1 Jan 1 Blauvelt; 6 Jan 9 Pleasantville; 2 same place Jan 15; 1 Jan 25 New Paltz; 1 Dec 2 Dutch; 2 birds reported months of Jan, Feb and Mar in Dutch. PALM WARBLER: 1 Dec 24 Croton Pt. (WH); 1 PCC. YELLOWTHROAT: 1 PCC. REDSTART: a male and female Dec 24 Croton Pt. (WH); 1 PCC. House Sparrow: seems down on several Christmas counts. Icterids: large movements in late Feb and early Mar. Eastern Meadowlark: 1 Dec 30 Kripplebush. BALTIMORE ORIOLE: 1 Dec 11-23 & Dec 30 Nannet (mob). Rusty Blackbird: 3 Jan 14 Sparkill Cr; 4 Jan 26 Pleasantville; 1 Dec 3 Stissing. Common Grackle: higher winter numbers than usual especially in the northern part where they are not expected. Cowbird: seems down in Rock. Cardinal: also down in southern part; RCC had 157 compared with 341 in 1961, and 246 in 1968. Last years total was 99. DICKCISSEL: 1 Chester sporadically from Dec 1 — Feb 26, daily thereafter thru end of period. Evening Grosbeak: in excellent num-

bers early, remained good thru end of period. Purple Finch: more than usual, outnumbered House Finch at certain feeders. House Finch: continues to inc and spread. Pine Grosbeak: excellent numbers early. Redpolls: only two reported and they are doubtful. Pine Siskin: reported from some areas but not others, not many. Goldfinch: seems somewhat lower. Red Crossbill: good numbers; 20 Rondout Res Feb 3; sev Feb 1 L. Askoti; sev reported along Schwangunks dur Feb and at Lloyd Cemetery Jan 25; 4 in Dutch dur Jan; 15 Mar 25 Millbrook. White-winged Crossbill: 1 Mar 23 Moore's Mills; 8 RCC. Towhee: more winter birds than usual; at least 3 in Rock; 1 Brinton Brook Sanct Jan 1; 4 in Dutch. Savannah Sparrow: 8 Croton Pt Jan 1 (WH); 29 Piermont Marsh RCC, previous high 8 in 1958. *HEN-SLOW'S SPARROW*: 1 obs repeatedly at close range Dec 30 at Kripplebush (Fred Hough) first winter record for that county and probably the region. Vesper Sparrow: 1 Dec 16 Spring Valley. *OREGON JUNCO*: 1 Dec 27 feeder of A. Scott Warthin Jr., Vassar Coll. Field Sparrow: new high of 43 on RCC, prev high was 33 in 1960 & 1961. White-crowned Sparrow: more than usual; 1 ad Dec 11 and 1 imm Jan 30 & Feb 6 Cornwall; 3 Dec 31 Stissing; 3 Feb 18 Cary Arboretum, Dutch; 1 thru March at Amenia. White-throated Sparrow: numbers better than usual; RCC had 302 for highest number since 1961. Fox Sparrow: poor numbers of last fall continued into spring, missed by many active birders; first Mar 12 Fort Montgomery; only 1 wintered in the Pleasantville area, obs Jan 15 and Jan 29. *LINCOLN SPARROW*: 1 dur Mar at Amenia feeder (B,TS); another wintered there last year. Song Sparrow: good numbers from some locales. Snow Bunting: obs in Wallkill Valley dur Dec and Feb, numbers generally small; max 200 Dec 30 Gretna Rd, Dutch. *MONK PARAKEET*: 1 Dec 19 at Texaco Research Center, Glenham (J,MK).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls, N.Y. 10928

## REGION 10 — MARINE

THOMAS H. DAVIS AND LEE MORGAN

The following rarities are included in this report: Eared Grebe, several Tufted Ducks, Sage Thrasher, Fieldfare, "Bullock's" Oriole, and "Spotted" Towhee. High counts were registered for Gannet, Snowy Egret, Common Eider, Ruddy Turnstone, Mourning Dove and Palm Warbler. Unseasonal reports included 2 Louisiana Herons, Marbled Godwit, Black-and-white Warbler, 2 Black-throated Blue Warblers, and Grasshopper Sparrow. American Oystercatcher and Semipalmated Plover set new arrival dates.

Contributors frequently cited: BC—Barbara Conolly; ED—Ed Daly; TD—Thomas Davis; SD—Steve Dempsey; DF—Davis Finch; MK—Michel Kleinbaum; SK—Sam Kornblatt; EL—Emmanuel Levine; DP—Dennis Puleston; BS—Barbara Spencer; LW—Leroy Wilcox.

CC (Christmas Count) abbreviations: Ca—Captree; CS—Central Suffolk; MK—Montauk; MN—Northern Nassau; SN—Southern Nassau.

LOONS — DUCKS: *EARED GREBE*: Feb 25 — Mar 18 Oak Beach (ED, SK et al) — "in winter plumage...studied in comparison to Horned." Gannet: 869 Dec 16 MKCC — highest Regional count. Green Heron: Dec 17 NNCC; Dec SNCC —



recorded with increasing frequency into late December in recent years. Great Egret: to Dec 30 (2) at JBWR (TD); arr Mar 18 at Tobay Pond (SD). Snowy Egret: to Dec 30 (4) at JBWR (TD); 14, Dec 30 SNCC — highest local CC total ever. Louisiana Heron: to Dec 16 at JBWR (J. Meyer et al); to Dec 17 at Oak Beach marsh (D. and M. Powers, TD) — previous extreme date was "to Oct 23; casual, Dec 1, 1940," (J. Bull)! Glossy Ibis: two, Dec 17 Travis, Staten Island (M. Weingarten, R. Claremont); arr Mar 19 (35) at Bethpage St. Pk. (EL). — this species' departure and arrival dates now closely resemble those of the Snowy Egret.

"Eurasian Green-winged Teal": Mar 2 Hempstead Lake St. Pk. (K. Kelly). European Widgeon: two birds reported wintering on Long Island. *TUFTED DUCK*: drake Nov 25–Jan 17 Belmont Lake St. Pk. (mob); drake Feb 19 Jerome Reservoir (W. Friton); pair Feb 24–Apr 15 Bronx Zoological Pk. (mob) — free-flying birds on a pond populated with 300 birds. Some conservative birders discredit Tufted sightings, assuming they are all escapes. Recent sightings of *pairs* of Tufteds, however, at least raises the possibility that Western Hemisphere breeding is taking place (see *Kingbird* 22: 108–109, 1972). Common Eider: "large flocks off Montauk Point all winter. I have never seen so many in these latitudes." (DP) — 581 listed on Dec 16 MKCC — highest Regional count.

HAWKS — OWLS: Turkey Vulture: Mar 16–18 JBWR (mob) — first time recorded here. Goshawk: CC totals: Ca — 4; Bronx — 1; CS — 2; SN — 3, rest — 0 — normal total for Region is one or two. American Oystercatcher: Mar 18 Shinnecock Inlet (A. Lorenzetti) — earliest Regional record. Semipalmated Plover: 10, Dec 30 SNCC — approximately triple the previous high at this season; arr Mar 18 at Oak Beach (SD) — earliest Regional record. Ruddy Turnstone: 54, Dec 30 SNCC — highest Regional wintering count by far. Least Sandpiper: Dec 30 Jones Beach St. Pk. (EL) — very rare at this season. Marbled Godwit: Jan 9–18, Moriches Inlet (DP et al) — first midwinter report for the Region. Little Gull: imm Dec 16 Montauk Pt. (DF et al); imm Dec 17 Fire Island Inlet (TD); adult Dec 30 Jones Inlet (D. Ford); adult and imm Mar 10 Captree St. Pk. (BS). Common Tern: two, Dec 15 Montauk Harbor (R. Kane et al) — very late, stormy the previous day.

Thick-billed Murre: 3, Dec 15 Montauk Pt. (R. Kane et al); Jan 155 Montauk Pt. (BS, BC). Monk Parakeet: CC totals: Brooklyn — 10; Staten Island — 10; NN — 3. Mourning Dove: 1291, Dec 26 CSCC; 1212, Dec 17 NNCC — in the 1960 CC issue, these two areas reported 156 and 104 individuals respectively. Snowy Owl: a bird that was trapped and color-marked at JFK International Airport on Nov 23, remained there at least until Dec 15. On Dec 19, it appeared at Mecox bay (over 70 miles to the east... as the owl flies), on Jan 5 it was spotted at Jones Beach, and on Jan 6 it had returned to JFK! (R. Cohen).

GOATSUCKERS — STARLING: Red-headed Woodpecker: an adult wintered at a feeder in Lynbrook (R. Sloss et al). Tree Swallow: 3, Jan 20 Hempstead Lake St. Pk. (SD — the only midwinter report this year. *SAGE THRASHER*: Jan 13–17 JBWR (Marguerite Juttner, E D, SK, Charles Young) — 5th State record, see "Photographs of New York State Rarities" article in May issue for further details. *FIELD-FARE*: Feb 3–11 Larchmont (P. Lehman et al) — see Field Note in May issue.

VIREOS — WARBLERS: Black-and-white Warbler: Dec 26 Brookhaven National Lab (H. Halama) — seen with Chickadee flock in a pine grove, 3rd Dec record. Orange-crowned Warbler: 5 Long Island sightings, all of them on Christmas Counts. Black-throated Blue Warbler: male Dec 1–24 Brookhaven (R. Stoner, DP et al) — at feeder; male Dec 28 Greenport (DP et al) — this species has been recorded locally in Dec only 4 times previously. Pine Warbler: Jan 21 Jones Beach St. Pk. (MK) — only midwinter report this year. Palm Warbler: Christmas Count max 19, Dec 19 Quogue CC. Common Yellowthroat: female Jan 14 JBWR (TR — only midwinter report this year. Yellow-breasted Chat: Dec 1–17 Sea Cliff (A. Bell) — "in shrubbery around house"; Dec 30 SNCC.

BLACKBIRDS – SPARROWS: Northern Oriole: a female “Bullock’s” type frequented an E. Moriches feeder, early Dec – through period (B. Smith, DP, DF et al). Dickcissel: two Long Island Christmas Count reports. Rufous-sided Towhee: this year’s CC totals were well down from last year’s highs, e.g., CaCC – 7 vs. 102; MKCC – 15 vs. 88, and NNCC – 16 vs. 48; a male “*Spotted*” type was seen Feb 1 at Bronx Zoological Pk. (W. Conway). Grasshopper Sparrow: Dec 30 Mitchell Field (fide R. Sloss) – this species has now been recorded 9 times in our Region during December – early January, all of these reports since 1949. Lincoln’s Sparrow: a bird netted and banded on Nov 21 remained at Brookhaven to Dec 26 (DP) – well-documented reports of late-lingering Lincoln’s are few in number.

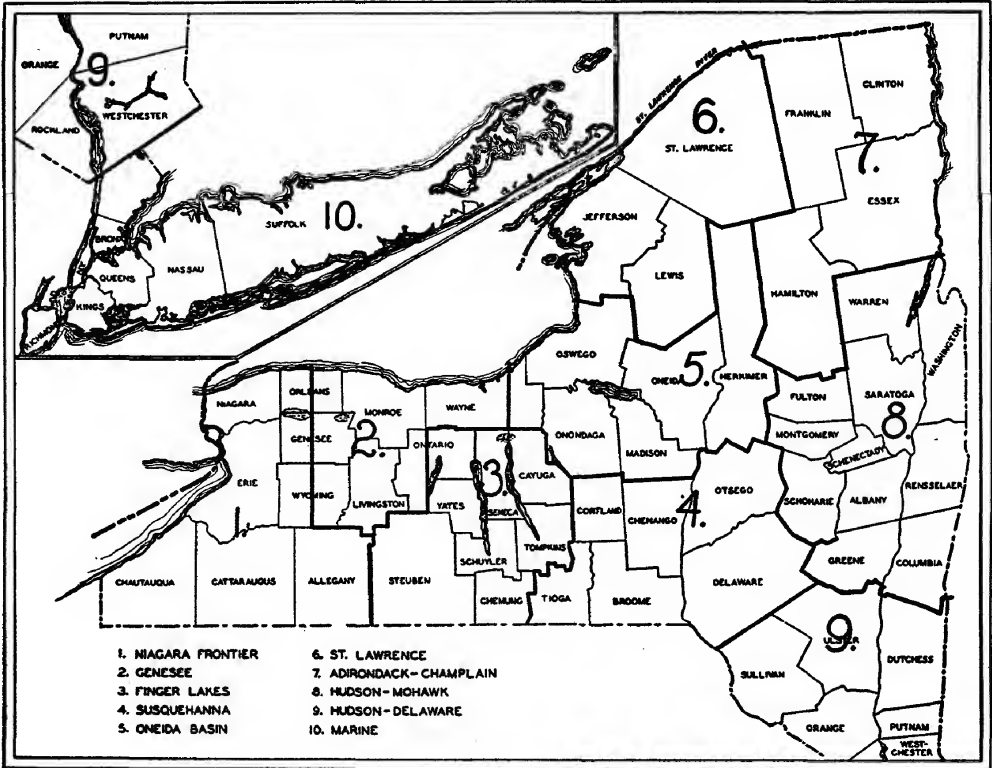
Note: Please send summer reports by Sept 1.

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For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV Nos. 1 and 2

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